



gazette

JUNE 2024



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Westminster Videos
Sledding for Uncle Sam

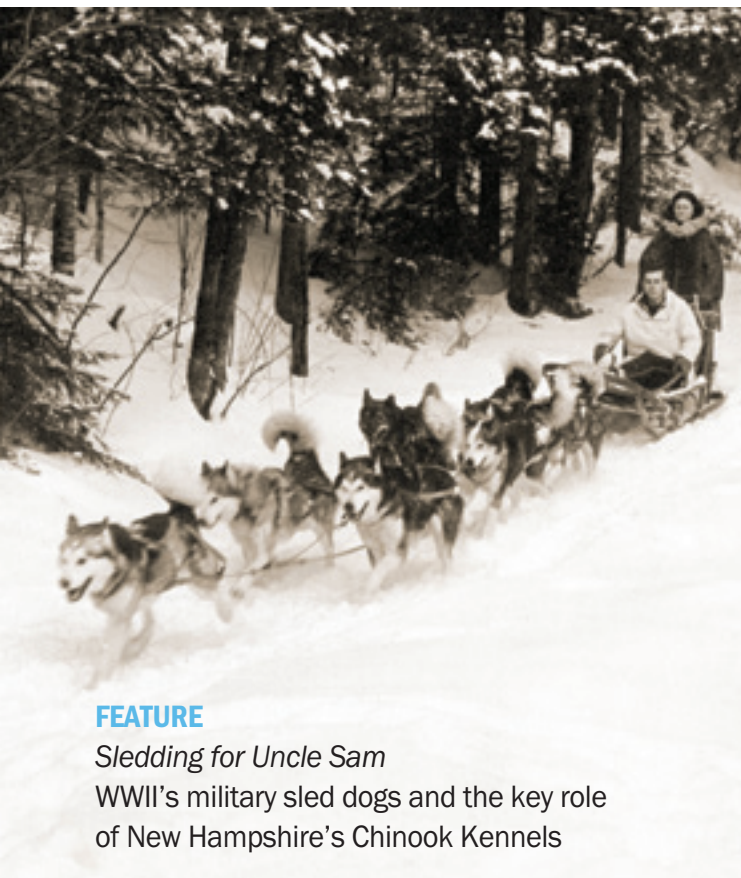


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January, April, July, and October issues	February, May, August, and November issues	March, June, September, and December issues

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CONGRATS,
SAGE!

2024 WESTMINSTER
BEST IN SHOW

Congratulations to Sage, the **2024 WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB BEST IN SHOW WINNER**.^{*} With her diminutive stature and regal appearance, the three-year-old Miniature Poodle won over the crowd and judges. We're proud to be a part of Sage's amazing victory, fueling her with the advanced nutrition of **Purina Pro Plan Sport Performance 30/20 Salmon & Rice Formula**.

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Swinging into Summer

The summer is almost here and competition events around the country are in full swing.

Next month, the 2024 [AKC Rally National Championship](#) and [National Obedience Championship](#) will be held in Wilmington, Ohio, July 18–21. Hundreds of dogs will descend on the Roberts Centre to vie for the title of National Champion in their respective sports. We wish the competitors and exhibitors safe travels and cannot wait to see who takes the top titles.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2024 Companion Events Junior Scholarships. The scholarships totaling \$10,000 were awarded to the following eight Juniors who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their education and competing in companion events: Danielle Wagner (Savage, Michigan), Logann



Beaulieu (Belchertown, Massachusetts), Caroline Hall (Granby, Connecticut), Trenton Stevens (Ridgefield, Washington), Olivia Uyeno (La Habra Heights, California), Carie Dumont (Chandler, Arizona), Kathryn Doane (Lake Geneva, Wisconsin), and Ava Hada (Menifee, California). To learn more about these incredible juniors, visit akc.org. We are proud to support their educational endeavors.

Lastly, but certainly not least, the AKC lauds the draft language released by the U.S. House Agriculture Committee for the 2024 Farm Bill—the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. This must-pass bill reauthorizes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs for five years and typically serves as a vehicle to address federal priorities in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). We deeply

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are proud to support the educational efforts of our incredible juniors.

appreciate the tireless and bipartisan efforts of House Agriculture Chairman G.T. Thompson and his staff in presenting a bill that not only supports U.S. Agriculture needs, but also supports important priorities for dog enthusiasts including canine health, welfare, and the rights of responsible dog owners.

Dog-related highlights of the bill's base text include: enhanced protec-

tions for dogs under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including expanded resources for educational outreach, additional resources for USDA to better enforce the AWA, including reporting to Congress on existing enforcement with recommendations for improving enforcement, enhances USDA response related to any dogs found in a state of "unrelieved suffering" by

requiring better and more timely notification of state and local authorities if an inspector finds that dogs are being kept in unacceptable conditions, and much more. Our dedicated Government Relations department has developed a comprehensive blog explaining the bill and it is available on akc.org, in the Expert Advice section.

Legislation is key to protecting the rights of breeders, dogs, and their owners, and we applaud the tireless efforts of our Government Relations staff, who monitor thousands of pieces of legislation at the local, state, and federal levels.

This and so much more is happening at AKC and it a pleasure to share them with you.

Until next time,

Dennis

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO

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inc.

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Sage Meets Mini Giants

NEW YORK—During the traditional morning-after victory lap around Manhattan, Westminster Best in Show winner GCh.G Surrey Sage and handler Kaz Hosaka toured the AKC Museum of the Dog. Naturally, they stopped to pay homage to a pair of imports that helped put the Miniature on the AKC map some 90 years ago.

Edwin Megargee's 1937 oil-on-canvas "Ch. Bonnie Brighteyes of Mannerhead and Blakeen, and Ch. Arnim of Pip by Edwin Megargee" is a gift to the museum from Tom and Ann Stevenson. The 22 x 30-inch painting is one of a series immortalizing champion Poodles commissioned by Mr.



and Mrs. Sherman Hoyt of Blakeen Kennels fame.

The two Miniatures were imported from England by Hayes Blake Hoyt of Blakeen Standard Poodles fame. The black Brighteyes was the first Miniature bitch to hold a championship title in both England and America. Arnim, an English dog of German bloodlines, was the foundation of the white Miniature line at Blakeen and was the first white Miniature to earn an AKC championship title.

Congratulations to Sage's owner, Cathy Gauche.

New Field Reps

King, Rowell Join Field Staff

The AKC has announced that Melanie King and Tara Martin Rowell have joined the Executive Field Staff.

As a breeder and owner-handler, King holds the record for the top specialty-winning English Springer Spaniel of all time. She has extensive experience in all aspects of animal husbandry, including work in veterinary clinics and management of boarding kennels and breeding facilities.

“Melanie has longtime experience with Irish Wolfhounds and Whippets,” Field Director of Conformation Sandy D’Andrea says. “She is a successful breeder-owner-handler and AKC Breeder of Merit in English Springer Spaniels. She was also the 1994 Westminster Best Junior Handler. She has managed large kennels



Melanie King

and brings a wealth of hands-on dog expertise to the position. All of this will be valuable assets as an Executive Field Representative.”

King is based in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Tara Martin Rowell has over 45 years of experience in dogs. She has been a member of the American Maltese Association as well as the Trinity Valley KC for 35 years, holding numerous positions with the latter, including Judges Selection



Tara Martin Rowell

committee, Hospitality, and recording secretary.

D’Andrea says, “Tara brings a broad background as a successful Maltese AKC Breeder of Merit, expertise as an all-breed professional handler with many Best in Show titles and top-winning dogs as well as a presenter of Judges Educational Seminars, Junior Handling Seminars, and grooming seminars all over the world.”

Rowell is based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

COURTESY SUBJECTS

UPDATES

Beagle Standard Revised

The AKC Board at its May meeting approved revisions to the Beagle breed standard. The changes, brought forth by the parent club, are effective July 30.

As a result, all judges assigned to judge Beagles, or assigned to judge the Hound Group or Best in Show where the breed may be present at AKC conformation events held on or after July 30, will be



required to judge in accordance with the newly approved breed standard.

The revision is limited to the color section, adding a disqualification for merle and brindle color patterns.

The revised standard will not be posted until just prior to the July 30 effective date.

[Preview the revised standard.](#)

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY @AKC

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UPDATES



The AKC will launch National Owner-Handled regional events this fall. The timing for this pilot program aligns with the 2025 AKC NOHS Finals qualifying period: September 2024 to September 2025.

Regionals will be structured like the NOHS Finals in Orlando, except they will

be open to all owner-handlers qualified to compete in NOHS. Winning entries will receive double the NOHS qualifying points toward the 2025 NOHS Finals.

NOHS Regional Events

South Central: Arapahoe KC, Colorado (September)
Southwest: Del Valle

Dog Club of Livermore, California (October)

Plains: Tri-State KC, Missouri (November)

Southeast: Lakeland Winter Haven KC, Florida (February 2025)

Great Lakes: Warren County KC of Ohio (March 2025)

Midwest: Baltimore County KC, Maryland (April 2025)

New England: Ladies Dog Club, Massachusetts (May 2025)

Northwest: Olympic KC, Washington (August 2025)

NOHS exhibitors interested in participating should mark their calendars and stay tuned for additional information from host clubs.

Send questions to ClubDevelopment@akc.org.

On Our Cover

Keeshond, by Alton Anderson, is part of a large collection of Anderson portraits housed in AKC Archives. These vivid Kodachromes have recently been scanned and restored by GAZETTE staff. For more, see our [YouTube slideshow](#) devoted to this ace portraitist, remembered by the fancy for his images in the 1980 bestseller *The Roger Caras Dog Book*.



TOP: DAVID WOO © AKC; BOTTOM: AKC ARCHIVES



Media Rare

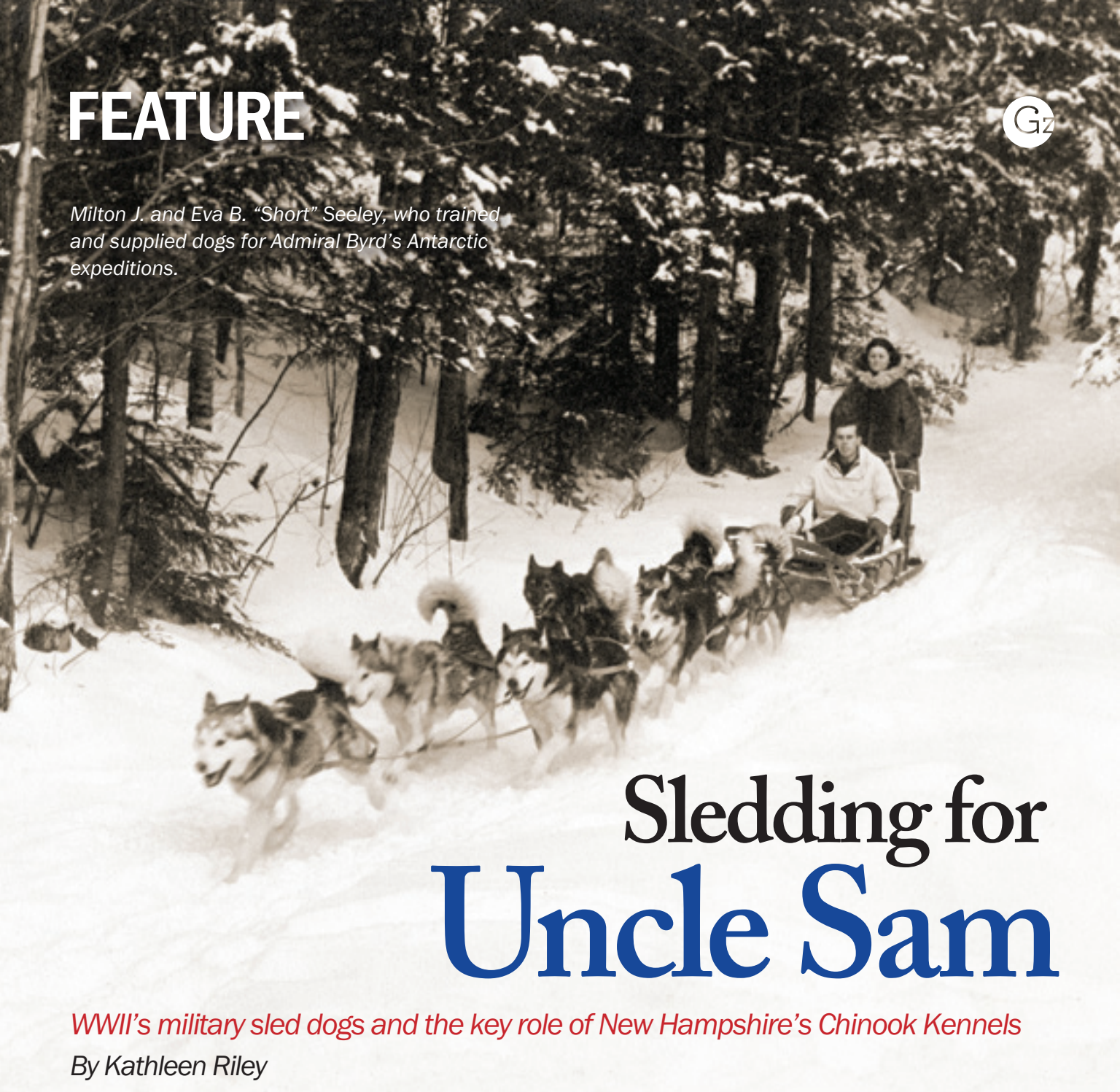
Dog-show photographers didn't make the switch to color film until the 1970s. We therefore always assumed that the AKC Archives contained no color photos of pre-'70s shows. Imagine our delight, then, when a packet arrived at the GAZETTE desk along with this note:

"This is the latest donation from Gail Waller. As a child, she received these 35 mm slides from her neighbor, Mr. and Mrs.

Cook, novice dog-show enthusiasts who lived in Michigan. The donated slides are primarily from the 1942 Toledo and Detroit dog shows."

These ultra-rare slides were digitized, color-corrected, and restored by AKC Publications. Here, for the first time anywhere, are scenes from a World War II-era benching area in glorious Kodachrome color.

Milton J. and Eva B. "Short" Seeley, who trained and supplied dogs for Admiral Byrd's Antarctic expeditions.



Sledding for Uncle Sam

WWII's military sled dogs and the key role of New Hampshire's Chinook Kennels

By Kathleen Riley

Nestled at the edge of the White Mountains in Wonalancet, New Hampshire, is Chinook Kennels—an ideal spot for raising and training sled dogs. It is considered the

birthplace of U.S. military dog sledding.

Military use of sled dogs became a reality in the early years of World War II. When the Quartermaster Corps selected Chinook

Kennels to provide dogs and troops for military operations, the dog drivers, trainers, kennel masters, and dogs all simultaneously became “government issue” (GI).

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

FEATURE



Arthur Walden and his famous dog, Chinook, in 1922

The U.S. Army had used sled dogs in Alaska since the early 1900s, though only through contracts with local drivers for specific needs and a limited time. As far back as June 15, 1926, a War Department technical regulation (#1380–20) noted that military funds, when requested from the Quartermaster General through proper channels, could be used to

purchase sled dogs.

Arthur Walden, the founder of Chinook Kennels, had been to Alaska in 1896 during the Klondike Gold Rush and had used dog teams to move freight. Walden had become a master of this method of travel. When he returned to New Hampshire, he acquired several dogs for his team. One was a large, yel-

low mixed-breed male, Kim, whom he bred to a descendant of one of Admiral Robert E. Peary's Greenland Huskies, Ningo. The resulting sled dogs were known for their tremendous power, endurance, and friendly dispositions. Walden named one of the pups Chinook after the lead dog (a half-breed MacKenzie River husky) he'd had to

COURTESY AUTHOR

FEATURE



1942: A promotional photo staged by the U.S. Army; the dogs were never actually deployed this way.

leave behind in Alaska.

Chinook was an exceptional lead dog, and Walden enjoyed showing him off to visitors by standing on his front porch and giving Chinook and the team he was leading commands as they worked out in the field.

Walden continued breed-

ing these dogs for many years, naming the breed itself Chinook. Walden and his Chinooks became the impetus for New England dog-sled racing. In 1924, he founded the New England Sled Dog Club, which still exists today. Walden won many races during this

era and drove a dog team to the summit of Mount Washington, the highest point in New Hampshire, a feat unknown in those days.

Because of his reputation in New England, and despite his age, in 1928 Walden became lead dog driver and trainer for Admiral Richard E. Byrd's Antarctic expedition. He acquired, bred, and trained dogs for a year, assisted by Norman D. Vaughan, Freddy Crockett, and Eddie Goodale. These men later became military dog drivers, renowned for using dog teams to find and rescue pilots downed during World War II.

When the Byrd Antarctic Expedition arrived in Antarctica, the team members immediately put the dogs to work. All the dog teams broke numerous records for the weight per load and the number of loads carried. Walden's lead dog, Chinook, pulled freight on the expedition, even though he was over 12 years old by that time.

FEATURE

1943: David Armstrong
with the "Cream Team"



ENTER THE SEELEYS

Before leaving for Antarctica, Walden partnered with Milton J. and Eva B. "Short" Seeley, whom he met in 1924 when they purchased a Chinook pup. In 1928, they moved to Wonalancet. Seeley, a chemist, developed a diet to sustain dogs during the rigors of the upcoming

Antarctic expedition. Those formulas were the basis for modern commercial dog foods.

Walden returned from Antarctica in 1930 in outstanding debt, despite his wife's resources and the Seattle bank savings he gathered during his Yukon Gold Rush years. The 1929 stock-market

crash and bank failures had destroyed both their fortunes. Upon his return, Walden found his wife, Kate Sleeper, needing help running Wonalancet Farm. While Walden was on the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, Kate's incapacity due to memory issues had resulted in the Seeleys obtaining a power of attorney, moving

COURTESY AUTHOR



Recruits enroute to the Camp Rimini War Dog Reception and Training Center near Helena, Montana

her into a small cottage on the property, and leasing the farm to Walter Jones. Exactly how this came about is not known. Walden came home to find the farm occupied by Jones under the terms of a lease so strict that he could not access any of his belongings that were stored there.

As a result of the partnership with Chinook Kennels, the Seeleys trained and supplied all the dogs for subsequent Byrd Antarctic

expeditions. Becoming close friends with the Admiral, they ultimately built an entrenched reputation as sled-dog experts.

THE GATHERING

In 1942, the Quartermaster Corps selected Chinook Kennels to gather dogs and drivers for military operations. There were many reasons for this choice. Paramount was Seeley's friendship with Byrd. In addition, New

England had become the nucleus of recreational dog sledding at a national level. Many people who had worked with Seeley during the Byrd expeditions kept in touch with him years later, thus Seeley could refer to the Army Personnel Section to men who had experience with sled dogs. Several had already been drafted, including David W. Armstrong Jr., Robert W. Brown, and Garfield W. Dicey. All three were



*Another Army publicity photo:
“Machine guns were never again
mounted on dogsleds.”*

transferred from their current military assignments to Eastern Remount Headquarters at Fort Royal, Virginia, then sent to Chinook Kennels in October 1942.

The military men were housed with residents and ate their meals at a boarding house, since no military housing was available. Richard S. Moulton was also drafted into the U.S.

Army when he returned from the 1939 Byrd expedition. He was initially assigned to Baffin Land but was later sent to Chinook Kennels, where he spent several years preparing dogs for Antarctic expeditions before his trip to the South Pole.

With all his experience, Moulton oversaw men and dogs at the kennel. Several months later, he was

assigned the same job at the newly established Camp Rimini, Montana.

INNOVATIONS

Dog training became more innovative as the number of dogs in the kennel grew. Lacking snow, the men stripped an Austin automobile chassis to train teams. Dogs were assembled into teams as soon as they arrived. One matched

COURTESY AUTHOR

FEATURE

team of eight light-yellow huskies became known as the Cream Team: Jack, Jill Jr, Saucey, Darkar, Nome, Malala, and Jill Sr. David Armstrong trained the Cream Team, then shipped to Camp Rimini, Montana, and later to Camp Hale, Colorado. These eight-dog teams were based on an army conception that teams should consist of seven dogs and one spare—a standard later revised to eight dogs and one spare. Since there was never a “spare” in reality, it was a team of nine dogs.

Decisions that Seeley and other kennel employers made during this period affected the entire U.S. Army sled dog program. Standardization of dog teams was one of the changes; equipment was another. Most equipment was chosen and acquired based on successful use during the U.S. Antarctic Expeditions. The low-back draft harnesses that became standard mili-

tary issues were refined from the original Chinook Kennels design. These harnesses, known as the Siwash harness, were tested extensively by Russians on Dixon Island, Siberia, and by Byrd’s explorers in Antarctica. The harness is constructed of one-inch-wide military-cotton webbing and padded with half-inch-thick wool felt that is sewn and riveted at all the stress points. The Siwash neck-yoke design places most of the strain of pulling on the dog’s chest and shoulders. A wooden spreader-bar prevented side traces from chafing the dog’s flanks. All the harnesses were handmade and individually sized.

The sled used extensively at Chinook Kennels was the basis for most sleds developed and built later by the military during World War II. It was a five-stanchion combination sled and toboggan, initially created near the kennels by Arthur King and called the

Wonalancet sled, after the town. Since it had been used successfully in the Antarctic, it was originally considered ideal for military use with dogs. However, as the sled was more widely used in the deep snows of the Rocky Mountains, it proved inadequate.

Most training of the dog teams happened in a large, open meadow about six miles from the kennels along a creek bottom called the Whiteface Intervale. Armstrong would crack the 25-foot whip along the team’s left side while commanding the dogs to *Gee* over to the right. They moved to the right to escape the whip-crack. Cracking the whip on the right side came with a *Haw* over, which made them move to the left. With practice, the dogs followed verbal commands alone.

DOG-AND-PONY SHOW

In January 1943, soldiers from Fort Pepperrell, Maine, visited Chinook

FEATURE

9,500 Years of Service

A study published in *Science* magazine indicates that present-day sled dog breeds and their cold-climate adaptations stem from a common ancient Arctic ancestor that diverged from other dog lineages more than 9,500 years ago in Northeast Asia.

These ancient dogs co-adapted with their human counterparts to the cold, northern regions, where they were used much in the same way as they have been by Arctic peoples over the thousands of years since—as important hunting companions and for pulling sleds great distances across the harsh, frozen and often unforgiving landscape.

The tradition of dog sledding is worldwide and has been practiced by Arctic peoples and the same group of dogs for millennia. However, the Arctic is rapidly changing environmentally and culturally, threatening traditional dogsledding cultures with extinction. What’s more, increased interbreeding between sled dogs and other non-Arctic dogs is putting the Arctic breeds at risk of



Alaska, c. 1915

disappearing in their ancestral homeland.

Despite being one of the most unique and culturally important groups of dogs, very little is known about the sled dog’s genetic origin and evolutionary past.

“Given the great diversity of dogs in the world, sled dogs represent such a small part, with only a few breeds and individuals, however they have been paramount for the Arctic side of human history and are truly genetically unique,” says the study’s lead author, Mikkel-Holger Sinding, a researcher at the University of Copenhagen.

Kennels for a publicity performance. Troops bound .30-caliber machine guns to the dogsleds. With a gunner and an assistant

gunner wearing white parkas for camouflage, teams were paraded around the grounds so newspapers and newsreel photographers

could take promotional pictures. As part of the propaganda, the gun crews unhooked their dog teams from the sleds, donned gas

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

FEATURE

masks, and theatrically propelled the sleds through the smoke produced by smoke grenades. They also fired live ammunition across the interval into a hill for photographers' benefit. The operation was strictly for propaganda, public relations, and photographs for publication and various periodicals.

The notoriety was good public exposure for Chinook Kennels, the Army, and the Dogs for Defense program.

Dogs for Defense was a World War II U.S. military program in which the military asked pet owners to donate their pet dogs to the war effort. The dogs were trained and used for guard and patrol duties. To encourage donations, the dogs were deprogrammed and returned after the war.

Machine guns were never again mounted on dogsleds. This technique might have been used if the opposing force's planned invasion of Norway had happened,

since dog teams had been envisioned working with the First Special Service Force and commando operations. But all subsequent versions of dog transportation manuals included machine guns and ammunition as combat load freight carried by dog teams.

THE CHINOOK LEGACY

Shortly after the publicity event in January 1943, the entire Chinook Kennels delegation was shipped to Camp Rimini. Forty dogs in their shipping crates, harnesses, sleds, and dog food were loaded aboard a single railroad car with Richard "Dick" Moulton, David Armstrong, and Bob Brown along to supervise. Dogs were allowed to run loose in the car for exercise during the trip.

Finally, the dogs and gear were offloaded at the Helena, Montana, train depot and put into trucks that arrived at Camp Rimini on February 3, 1943.

Seeley's official business

with the army ended soon after the dogs and men arrived at Camp Rimini. Seeley did one personal inspection tour of the sled dog facility at the camp to ensure adequate equipment was available for training dogs and operating the kennels. Milton Seeley died in 1944, shortly after he returned home to New Hampshire.

Chinook Kennel's association with the military was a brief episode. Still, the expertise and influence generated by its founder, Arthur T. Walden, and former employees guided the entire military sled dog program throughout the war. Supplying sled dogs for all of Byrd's expeditions established Chinook Kennels as the most authoritative and knowledgeable in the United States.—**K.R.**

Kathleen Riley is vice president and GAZETTE breed columnist for the [Chinook Club of America](#).

PHOTO CREDIT HERE



Backstage at the Big Show

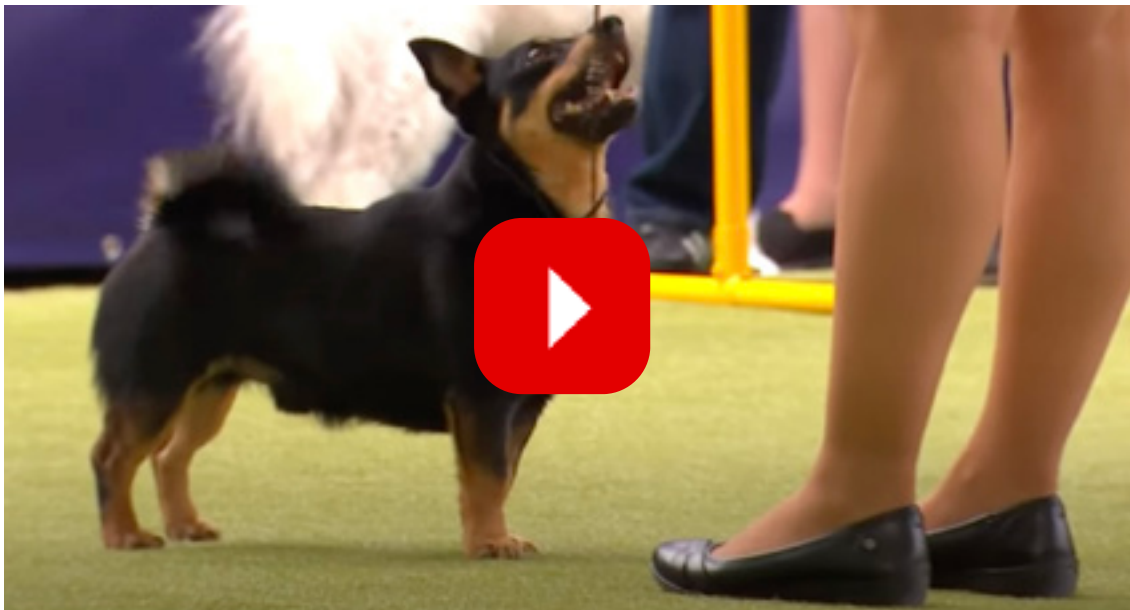
ABC News: Danny New visits the grooming area at Westminster. 2:27



Queen of Queens

Fox Sports: WKC Masters Agility highlights, including Nimble's amazing run. 9:34

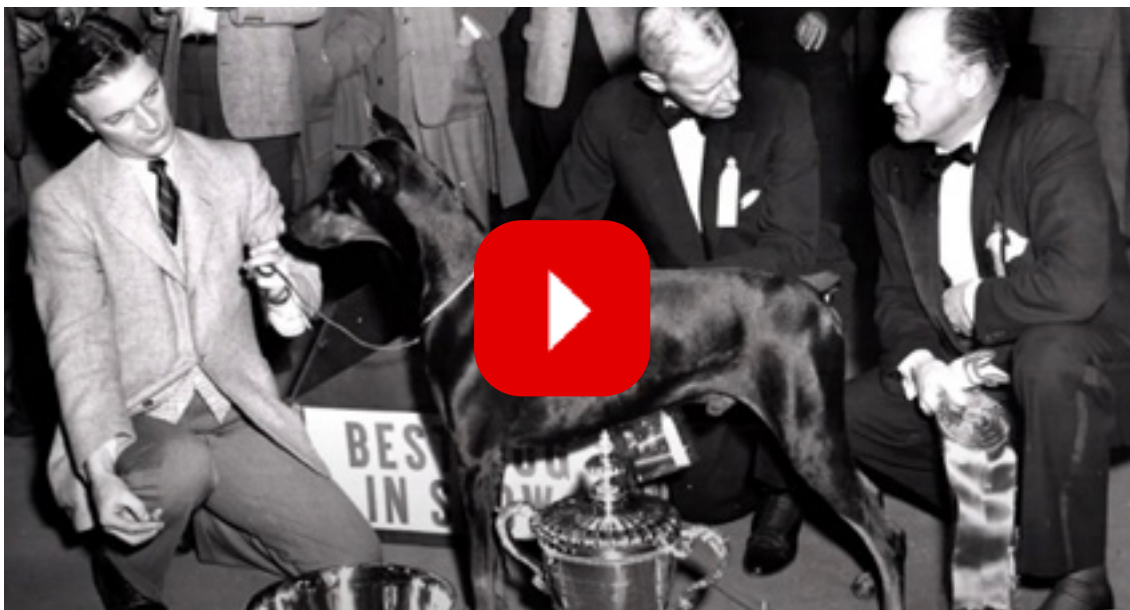
VIDEOS



The Lancashire Lad

Mando, the Lancashire Heeler, becomes the first of his breed to show at Westminster.

4:10



Garden Greats

From the AKC GAZETTE, a gallery of WKC Best in Show winners through the years. 1:06

Outstanding in His Field



*“Ch. Rapide,” a Pointer,
painted by John T. Donaldson
(AKC Museum of the Dog)*

John Donaldson was among America’s most honored painters of sporting scenes. Donaldson, a WWII veteran and scout master, painted about 20 commissioned dog portraits annually, either head studies or sporting scenes. Beginning in 1973, he painted the recipients of the Top Bird Dog Award, presented annually by Ralston Purina, and was soon immortalizing winners of various field competitions.

About the artist, from the December 1977 issue of *The*

American Field:

“John Donaldson has something extra going for him compared to many gifted artists—he is a bird dog man, a breeder and owner, knowledgeable about field trials and field trial dogs, hence the authenticity of all his paintings. One thing that impresses the bird dog devotee is John Donaldson’s mastery not only of the technical aspects of depicting a dog in oil on canvas, but his ability to capture the character—the personality, if you

will—of the individual canine.

“As one owner said, ‘The portrait is so vivid, my dog seems alive and I find myself almost talking to him.’”

“That is the supreme accolade to be paid any portrait artist—that he has captured his subject completely, endowed his subject with lifelike qualities, and it is such praise that is invariably bestowed on John Donaldson’s art.”

Donaldson died in 2005, age 86, at his home in Falls Church, Virginia.



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Kaz Hosaka



2024

Westminster Best in Show Miniature Poodle

GCh.G Surrey Sage and handler Kaz Hosaka, who had earlier announced his retirement. “I’ve been here for 45 years in America.

I’ve been lucky. Did a lot, especially at Westminster. This is my seventh group win for Poodles. That’s more than I could ask for. This is my perfect end. I cannot ask for more than this.”

Hosaka has won seven Westminster Non-Sporting Group Firsts, and Sage is his second Westminster Best in Show winner. In 2002, Hosaka handled the Miniature Poodle “Spice” (Ch. Surrey Spice Girl) to Best in Show, the first Miniature Poodle to win at Westminster since 1959. Spice is the great-great-granddam of Sage. Hosaka bred both Miniature Poodles.

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)



“What is the thought process? How do they prioritize and get to their winners?” asks the Collie Club of America’s Marianne Sullivan in this month’s column about judges and their choices. (photo courtesy [Lynda Beam](#))

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

The breed columns are a time-honored feature of the AKC GAZETTE. Each columnist is appointed by the breed's national parent club, which preserves the breed's standard and helps to educate breeders, judges, and the public about the breed's traits, history, care, and training. A national parent club is made up of dedicated breeders and fanciers and represents many years of collective experience in the breed. Columnists are asked to write about topics of interest to serious dog fanciers in general as well as those of specific interest to judges and devotees of the breed. The breed columns rotate quarterly by group so that each breed's column can appear four times a year. Information and opinions expressed in the breed columns represent the views of their authors, not necessarily those of the breed's parent club or the AKC. For questions about the breed columns, e-mail Arliss.Paddock@akc.org

THIS MONTH

Toy

- 29 Brussels Griffons
- 31 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 35 Chihuahuas
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Brussels Griffons

REMEMBERING A LEGENDARY BRUSSELS GRIFFON FANCIER

Just before the American Brussels Griffon Club national specialty on March 13 of this year, a club member told me that Jimmy Mitchell had cancelled his next show assignments. Since I'm show chair of the national, I called immediately to find out if he was still planning to judge our show.

"Yes, of course," Jimmy said. He had cancelled last weekend's assignments in California so he would be fresh for the Brussels Griffon national. His friend, the all-breed judge Desmond Murphy, was coming with him. He was really looking forward to it. He laughed at the idea that he would cancel an assignment that meant so much to him. He was resting at home, with his two Brussels Griffons, one on his lap, one at his feet.

Jimmy Mitchell was a great fan of Brussels Griffons. Even though he bred Corgis



Brussels Griffon

and Shelties, Griffs held a special place in his heart. "Brussels Griffons are great little dogs," he said. "I'll always have them around."

He recalled that in the 1960s, he was rushing across a grooming area to assist professional handler Bill Trainor when he was stopped in his tracks by a strange sight—a hairy, almost mystical creature sitting on a grooming table in Jane Kamp's setup, eyeing him coolly with big, black eyes. "I said, 'What is that?'"

It was Barmere's Mighty Man. That was the first Brussels Griffon I ever saw."

Ch. Barmere's Mighty Man was the first Brussels Griffon to make an impression on the American dog show scene. He belonged to renowned breeder Miriam Breed of California.

Jimmy was to own several Brussels Griffons over the years, but his ability to show them was limited, as he worked for many years as a superintendent for MBF, followed by 19



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years as an Executive Field Representative for the AKC. People holding those jobs are directly involved in dog shows but must forgo showing dogs themselves.

In 2001, he left the AKC administrative job to become a judge of four groups, one of which was Toys. A smooth Griffon bitch he owned produced five smooth puppies, which he and I evaluated on the porch of his Wilmington, Delaware, home in 2005.

When he arrived in Louisville on March 11, Jimmy said he felt good. He smiled and murmured, “Remember, I’m 81.”

In the ring, Jimmy was kind and gentle with every Griffon, giving puppy owners extra time to settle their over-eager charges. He had a smile and a comment for every owner. He examined each exhibit intently, following their movement all the way around the ring, giving each dog his full attention. Our exhibitors appreciated his patience and attention.

Throughout the years,

Jimmy could always be found ringside when there was a Brussels Griffon entry, observing, smiling, always polite. He had a phenomenal memory; he could recall a dog you showed five years ago, even though you had to struggle to remember which one that was!

Sadly, ours was the last dog show he judged. Jimmy Mitchell passed away four weeks after the Brussels Griffon national specialty. He was a true gentleman of the dog show world. He was unfailingly courteous, respectful, chivalrous, and considerate; a model for all of us of how to behave. The Brussels Griffon world will miss him.

—Sharon Sakson

[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

HEALTH TESTING AND THE CAVALIER

I host a local radio program. One of my jobs is to read a disclaimer at the

start of each show that states the opinions expressed are those of the host(s) and do not represent the organization, its sponsors, or the channel. Similarly, the following article represents my opinions. As a physician, and a person with 50 years’ experience in AKC activities plus 20 years’ involvement in the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, including having bred and shown multiple champions and having Cavaliers live healthy lives into 16 and 17 years, I may have learned a few things.

The dog world was recently shocked by a Norwegian court’s decision barring the breeding of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels based on what the judges claimed was the dogs’ health. While we could start by blaming the court for a biased opinion, it has been my opinion that the Norwegian Cavalier breeders put up a poor defense. Perhaps there were mitigating circumstances for their actions, but I believe that American Cavalier

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Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

breeders could, would, and should create a knowledgeable dialogue based on the improvement in health and longevity of American CKCS in the last 30 years.

Advice regarding health testing may be found on the breed's parent-club website, <http://www.ACKCSC.org>. This includes information on testing for eyes, hearts, SM, hips, patellae, PSOM, curly coat, and dry eye.

Let's start with the issue of MVD, degenerative or myxomatous mitral valve disease. This condition is prevalent in the CKCS,

and it is presumed that its prevalence is due to early breeding, where the numbers of dogs was limited and the gene was "locked in." Yes, when I entered the breed, MVD seemed to be a scourge. Perhaps I have just been lucky, but in our 20 years in the breed we have had just two dogs requiring Pimobendan. One passed at 17-plus years. He had a murmur but died of other old-age causes. The second is 14 and not yet in failure. Many other breeder-exhibitors report similar experiences with dogs living

healthy lives into their teens. Careful testing and breeding practices have led to better longevity. An ACKCSC health survey could document the trend. Longevity has been achieved by the empirical actions of breeders. A genetic marker may be on the horizon, which may further aid breeders.

Incidentally, MVD does occur in other toy breeds but has not received the attention of the CKCS. Health screening of breeding stock by an ACVIM cardiologist is suggested at 2 years.

Syringomyelia, or SM, is another condition occurring in the CKCS. SM is a disorder in which a cyst or bubble called a syrinx forms within the spinal cord. Pain is the most common clinical sign, often observed as phantom scratching to the affected side of the neck. SM appears in many dog breeds, and particularly in a number of toy breeds. SM in Cavaliers has been identified and well researched. Along with CKCS, SM has

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TOY GROUP

been documented in English Toy Spaniels, Brussel Griffons, Yorkshire Terriers, Maltese, Chihuahuas, Miniature Dachshunds, Miniature and Toy Poodles, Bichons Frises, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Pomeranians, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Boston Terriers, Pekingese, Miniature Pinschers, and French Bulldogs. Prevalence in other breeds has not been measured at this time. MRI is the definitive exam in an affected individual, and a mode of inheritance has not been established.

Some breeders have chosen to have MRI of all breeding specimens at 3 to 5 years. This is expensive, requires anesthesia, and since no mode of inheritance is established, may not be reasonable. MRIs are graded “A” to “D”—with “D” being high grade, or worst. There are no guarantees that breeding an “A” dog or bitch will produce an “A” puppy. I ascribe to the school of thought that a breeder should MRI a dog at risk and if positive, should

neuter that animal and not use it for breeding. Having lost a prized dog to anesthesia during an MRI, I have my reluctance to having MRIs done of all dogs. My one experience with SM in a beautiful bitch is now being managed nicely with 100 mg Neurontin daily, and her symptoms seem dependent on weather or barometric pressure. Symptoms may wax and wane.

When discussing SM, one must also discuss Chiari Malformation (CM). Like the Arnold Chiari Syndrome in humans, CMs are structural changes that occurs where the skull and the upper end of the spinal cord meet. The foramen magnum is the opening to the spinal canal at the bottom of the skull. Normally, the cerebellum and parts of the brainstem sit in an indented space at the lower rear of the skull, above the foramen magnum. When part of the cerebellum is located below the foramen magnum, it is called a Chiari malformation. This will produce

symptoms like SM, and an MRI is diagnostic. While surgery has been suggested, it is most often treated with medication; Neurontin, steroids, NSAIDs, and proton pump inhibitors. Despite articles like “Pedigree Dogs Exposed,” the condition is not as widespread, and I have not experienced it in our dogs.

Otitis media (middle-ear infection) may affect the CKCS. Due to the mucoid nature of this ear disease, the condition has been referred to as primary secretory otitis media (PSOM), or “glue ear.” Signs of PSOM may not be apparent. When present, they may include hearing loss, facial paralysis, head tilt, involuntary eye movement, unsteady gait, and neck scratching and head shaking—some of which are similar to SM. There are no patterns of inheritance for PSOM, and testing occurs only with concern for affected individuals.

Dry Eye and Curly Coat Syndrome is due to an autosomal recessive gene, a

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mutation of the FAM83H gene. Puppies are born with an unusually rough, curly haircoat and do not produce tears, which leads to the early symptoms of corneal ulcers, infection, and ocular discharge. If pups survive, you may also notice that their paw-pads are especially thick and crusty (hyperkeratotic) and that their nails are malformed. This may result in a need for euthanasia. Fortunately, the condition has been virtually eliminated by breeders and is easily tested for with a simple cheek-swab.

Cavaliers do not generally suffer from any serious eye problems. They rarely inherit juvenile cataracts, retinal dysplasia, or other eye problems like corneal dystrophy, distichiasis, microphthalmia, and retinal dysplasia. Breeders should screen their Cavaliers with board-certified veterinarian ophthalmologists and only breed Cavaliers who are normal or comply with CERF breeder guidelines. As of this writing, there are

no known patterns of inheritance, and there is no advice regarding breeding,

I have left the discussion of structural problems of hips and knees for last. Hip dysplasia is a congenital and degenerative condition. It is a polygenic disease, meaning that there are several genes as well as environmental factors that produce the problem. Certain larger breeds such as German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, and Labrador Retrievers have a predisposition for this condition, though it can occur in all dogs, even smaller dogs as the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

Diagnosis of hip dysplasia is made by X-ray. As this is a degenerative disease, breeding stock in dogs with a breed predisposition are X-rayed after the age of 2 for signs of the disease. An affected dog should not be used for breeding. In the Cavalier, it is a breeder's choice to X-ray for hip dysplasia, as the incidence of the condition seems low

(per the ACKCSC website). As with some inherited diseases, a negative X-ray may not answer the question of whether a dog is a carrier and can pass the condition to its offspring.

Patellar luxation, also called slipped stifles, is common to many breeds, including Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers, Pomeranians, Pekingese, Chihuahuas, Miniature Pinschers, and Boston Terriers and Cavaliers. Females seem to be at higher risk for this condition. Diagnosis is relatively simple and involves palpating the knee-joint and manually luxating the patella. Patellar luxation is classified in four grades depending on severity and is subjective. Mild patellar luxation (grade 1–2) may be discovered as an incidental finding, especially in a growing pup or a female in season. Patellar luxation may also occur in any breed due to trauma. Developmental patella luxation results from abnormalities in the bones of the rear legs, such as a

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

shallow trochlear groove. Cavaliers used for breeding should have normal patellae as determined by an OFA examination at 1 year of age. The patellae should be reevaluated as the Cavalier ages.

These are my opinions on health and health testing, and I hope they generate some interesting discussion and some clarity. For more information, go to the ACKCSC.org website.

—Dr. John V. Ioia, MD, Ph.D.,

bonefixr@gmail.com

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Chihuahuas

SHOWING YOUR CHIHUAHUA: STARTING OUT

You've been to the shows and seen the darling little creatures prancing around the ring. What fun to see—and it certainly doesn't seem too hard to “just walk the dog around in a circle.”

I remember riding a transport from the hotel to the showgrounds and sit-



ting beside a Border Collie owner who showed her dog in obedience. Being true to her breed, the person's hair was half white—white on the top, matching her dog's white ruff, and the rest dark like the body of her Border. Of course I noticed it immediately, but I never remarked on the unusual hair. Dog people are “unusual.” Like all dog folks do, we struck up a conversation, and she told me what she did and asked what breed I was showing and what sport. Proudly, I told her I showed Chihuahuas in the conformation ring. She quickly

came back with the comment, “Oh, you're lucky, you don't have to do anything but walk around the ring.” I bit my tongue.

Big dog or little dog, we work hard in those few minutes we are in the show ring. We've spent thousands of hours training for this day. No one walks into the show ring expecting to lose, but lose we do. Unfortunately, losing is a fine art, and to lose graciously is not an easy task. Most newcomers enter the show ring with great expectations. When they lose to a seasoned handler,

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TOY GROUP

bystanders will tell them that it was the handler the judge always chooses. But in actuality that handler has trained for years and honed his craft to perfection. He or she is a professional. Others in the ring will range from newcomer to somewhat seasoned and more seasoned show people and owner-handlers who don't handle other people's dogs but love the sport and love showing their own dogs.

Getting into the show world takes patience, stamina, and above all, realistic expectations. The sport is costly, so beginning with the best dog possible is suggested. This will alleviate a lot of disappointments down the road.

Take your time when purchasing a dog for the show ring, and do your homework to find quality breeders. Go to dog shows and talk to exhibitors once they've finished showing their dog. They will be happy to talk about dogs! It's their life, and rarely do they think about much else.

Once you have your new bundle of joy, search out a conformation training class. Most local kennel clubs can help you with this and answer many questions. Be sure your breeder can be counted on as a mentor to help you through your first year.

First-time jitters are normal. In fact, they last for a few years, but one day you'll notice that you handle very well, your dogs love the ring, and you have a whole new group of wonderful friends. You still lose, but you win too. You realize that losing is part of any sport, and you graciously congratulate the winner then kiss your dog and prepare for the next show. —*Virginia (Jenny) Hauber*

[Chihuahua Club of America](#)

Havanese **10 HARD PROBLEMS, 10 EASY ANSWERS**

After nearly 54 years of showing and breeding dogs, I realize that I have a

myriad of DIY household tricks that really should be shared. Here are 10 of my favorites. Any comments or questions? Let me know!

1. Havanese are notorious shredders. Papers, toys, and crate-mats are vulnerable to the shredding pleasures of Havanese. Crate-mat demise really drove me crazy until I discovered pillow shams at my local thrift shops. Don't throw out those seemingly destroyed mats. Place torn mats in lovely pillow shams that either fold over at the ends or have ties to close them. Very often the shams themselves are quilted and add extra softness! They are washable, with or without the crate mat inside. Avoid the ones with zippers as zippers can get chewed and can be dangerous. I have extended the life of "ruined" crate mats by years! Expect to pay between \$2–4 for them.

2. In the event that your beautiful Havanese has to be anesthetized for any reason—hip X-rays, dental cleaning, or surgery—and your veterinarian plans to

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shave a leg for the I.V., discuss your feelings about that. Often your vet will agree not to shave. However, the staff in attendance may not be aware of your discussion with the veterinarian and will routinely shave the leg. Every dog we bring in for such a procedure arrives with a tee-shirt or little jacket with the following words inked on: DO NOT SHAVE. It works 99 percent of the time with the doctor's concurrence and serves as a not-so-subtle reminder to the staff. We buy toddler T-shirts from thrift stores or inexpensive dog jackets and sweaters from local "dollar" stores.

3. None of us could survive without a proper grooming table, but only in recent years have we discovered the joy of using a turntable top on top of a regular grooming table. The turntable (available from specialty grooming sites) enables us to easily turn the dog without adjusting the dog or dryers.

4. That leads me to the



merits of adjustable-height barstools for grooming. Due to a horrific shoulder injury, I need to be high up to groom. My husband likes being lower to the table. A barstool with a hydraulic lift mechanism, with footrail but no arms, is perfect for fast adjustments.

5. Training your dog to free-stack on the ground or on an exam table can be frustrating. Many people resort to purchasing expensive, but beautifully constructed wooden carry-boxes. We solved that problem and (expense) by going to our local hardware store and buying bricks and rubber or carpet mats. You

can use the bricks whole or broken in half. Glue the matting on top of the bricks, and there you have perfect, heavy blocks that you can use to position your dog's feet for stacking training. (Want them higher than the height of one brick? Glue two together! But one is usually sufficient.)

6. Many people have loved the neat use of "lick-it" bottles attached to crates or ex-pens. But what do you do if you want one in the middle of a room? Go to a store that sells kitchen items and purchase a vertical, metal paper-towel holder (usually available in brass or wrought iron). The water-bottle attachment fits securely to

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the paper-towel holder, and the stand is heavy enough to support the weight of the bottle. You can move it anywhere you want! No need to go to a woodworking class to create a stand when you can buy one for \$6–8.

7. Most everyone who shows dogs in conformation or performance events has a “ringside” grooming bag to house all those little last-minute items may be needed before going into the ring. I hate fumbling around in any of those bags looking for something and finding that I may be holding up my class in the process. Solution: Get a clear-plastic zippered make-up bag—available online in several sizes, with or without handles. In a second you can see the item you need, and you’re not searching blind to find it. These bags are inexpensive and easily replaced if they get soiled or torn.

8. Buy a small, blank notebook to keep near your grooming tub to remind yourself which of your

many shampoos and conditioners you like for which of your dogs. In my opinion, each Havanese coat is different, and you may find that different products work better on different dogs. Can’t remember which is which? Jot down your preferred products in a little nearby notebook to solve the dilemma for you.

9. We really believe in the merits of handling classes for us and for our dogs. Each dog needs his or her own handling technique, command words, collar, lead, and so on. Use a little notebook to jot down such things like “Nitwit needs a Resco collar, go slowly away from the judge and faster coming back. Likes liver not chicken bait.” And so on. Every dog gets a separate page. Study the book before going into the show ring, just as an actor studies the script before walking on stage.

10. Finally, take good notes on each ring experience. Get to know what judges like. Does a cer-

tain judge seem to prefer a particular size? Color? Sex? Know your history under each judge. Keep track by judge. Judges do change over time, so don’t be locked in completely. Develop a “DNS” (“Do not show”) list of judges to whom (for whatever reason you deem appropriate) you will never show a particular dog again. We try to give judges two or three opportunities before they get cemented on that list for a particular dog. There are a few judges, for reasons I won’t share, who will never, ever see any of our dogs for any reason. But those are few and far between.

Hopefully, you have found some of these ideas helpful. In another column I will discuss specific household items to help in your grooming process.

Opinions expressed here are those of the author, not of the Havanese Club of America.

—Alice L. Lawrence,
pulifuzz@aol.com
Havanese Club of America

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Italian Greyhounds

REQUIREMENTS FOR PUPPY BUYERS

There are things I've always required from prospective puppy purchasers. Most responsible breeders have a number of requirements that are pretty much standard. However, in the past few years I've added two new requirements to the list, especially for first-time IG owners.

Pet health insurance. The cost of veterinary care has escalated monumentally. If the new owner has not had a dog for a few years, he may not be fully aware of this. As new procedures enable veterinarians to extend the life and vastly improve the quality of a pet's senior years, the cost can be as much as similar surgery and medications for a human. Most people, particularly those in their senior years, have at least partial insurance for themselves but not for their animals.

Years ago, a middle-aged dog or cat was considered old by age 10 or so. Today



Italian Greyhound

that same animal could live a happy, healthy life long into his or her teen years, but at a cost that can run into several thousands of dollars—dollars that the pet's owners probably have not factored into the family

budget. Add to this the IG's potential for a broken leg, for which treatment is costly, and the average owner may in store have more expense than he is willing or able to handle. There have been numerous IGs returned to

DAVID WOO ©AKC



TOY GROUP

their breeder or given to rescue with a broken leg or other expensive-to-treat condition because the owner couldn't afford it. This is disastrous for the owner and the breeder, but most of all for the IG. Having a health-insurance policy for the pet could have prevented the situation. It's generally not difficult to sell to new owners the idea of getting a policy.

A fenced yard. There was a time when I trusted puppy buyers to follow my instructions for training the new family member to use pads, papers, or a litter box when there was no safely fenced area available for the dog to relieve itself. That was before I placed an already paper-trained dog with a bestselling author who had just lost her beloved IG. She lived in a condo with no yard but assured me that she would walk the dog regularly and would keep pads down for him to use when walks were impossible.

Several months later, the woman called me, say-

ing she had given up on the dog's house manners and was returning him. She hadn't followed my instructions. She said that she was too busy to walk him more than once or twice a day and that she couldn't possibly leave pads or papers down, since she often had very important visitors. Consequently the dog had made a mess everywhere. She had sent him off to a "trainer" who deprived him of food and water as part of the training. When he came home to her, he still wasn't housebroken. The poor dog was in terrible shape when I got him back.

Fortunately, his story had a happy ending, and the dog ended up in a wonderfully loving home. However, since the experience with this author, who talks as smoothly as she writes, I will no longer place an IG with people who don't have an enclosed yard. —*Lilian S. Barber, 2010*

[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

Japanese Chin

TRAVELING WITH YOUR CHIN

Whether it's a trip to another dog show or simply a visit to family and friends, traveling with your favorite companions presents its own set of unique challenges. And anyone who travels with their canines by car knows that this particular form of transportation for long distances can be quite a task. So here are a few tips from a traveler who has learned through experience, both good and bad.

First and foremost, it should be pointed out that if your dog is truly sick, seek out help from a veterinarian as soon as you can.

Being prepared is the best way to fight traveling mishaps. Do you bring a first-aid kit with you when you travel? During my early years of dog shows, my vet instructed me to have at the ready the following supplies: Vet wrap, bandage, scissors, gauze pads, clippers, antimicrobial ointment, hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting), thermometer, eye wash,

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Japanese Chin

and Benadryl (for allergic reactions). This might seem a little overboard, but over the years, I actually have used many of the contents of my first-aid bag.

Depending on how far you are going by car, do your dogs a favor and make several potty stops. It is infinitely better than dealing with the dreaded odor from an accident in the back of your vehicle.

One of the most common problems encountered on the road can be carsickness. I have mercifully been blessed with fairly unruffled travelers. I have been informed by other seasoned travelers that, for dogs who are prone to car sickness, a bite of a gingerbread cookie may help settle the stomach if given before the journey. I have not had the opportunity to test that theory

myself but am told it could be helpful. Some veterinarians advise that traveling on an empty stomach may also be effective. Some vets also advise to cover the kennel. Finally, there are medications your vet might recommend such as Dramamine, meclizine, and Cerenia that may help. You would need to talk to your vet in advance regarding the best medication and dosage.

When dogs have loose stools while traveling, this can (or rather will) make for a very unhappy day. Gastrointestinal issues don't seem to have an upside, but the pain can be minimized by being prepared. I travel with a roll of paper towels, antibacterial wipes, extra bedding, and a garbage bag. In the event I am on the road and an event occurs, a kaolin-pectin medication for dogs can often help control the symptoms until you can talk to your vet. Again, should the problem present itself as more than a one-time occurrence or be more severe than normal, get on

TOY GROUP

the phone and talk to your vet about a preferred treatment. In some cases, the vet may prescribe a medication such as Metronidazole, an antibiotic preferred to fight bacteria in the body. I have had very good results with this medication.

Of course, specific to traveling with our Chins are problems associated with temperature control. With their small, brachiocephalic faces and profuse coats, our breed can be vulnerable to overheating. We need to be mindful of that scenario. Packing extra water and a crate fan and/or ice packs in the summer can provide relief for a hot Chin in a hurry.

Adding up all the first-aid equipment, potty emergency gear, and temperature-control paraphernalia sometimes makes me feel like a nomad roaming the dog show circuit, but better to be safe than sorry. Happy and safe roving! —*Cecilia Resnick, 2017*

[Japanese Chin Club of America](#)

Maltese

JUDGING THE MALTESE: WHAT MAKES THE BREED UNIQUE

What constitutes a Maltese and makes it unique from any other breed? Many times in our standard the word *medium* is used, which should be kept in mind in judging the breed. Nowhere does it say anything about exaggerated neck, legs, or head. Our standard calls for a dog ideally from four to six pounds, but overall quality is to be considered before size.

Sometimes pounds do not properly describe a dog, as you can have a large, rangy dog who only weighs five pounds, and you can just as easily have a very well-bodied smaller dog who can also weigh five pounds.

The breed's coat texture is unique, as it is silky but not at all the same as that of the Yorkie or the Silky Terrier. You can have a Maltese who has silky hair and has 100 hairs per square inch, which will make the coat look fuller, but still silky, or you can have a dog who

has silky hair and only 50 hairs per square inch as well. Beware, as sometimes Maltese who have less hair may not necessarily have silky hair but very fine hair that easily breaks, and this does not mean it is silky. Those types of dogs even have a very fine undercoat that mats, therefore easily damaging the long hair that grows.

The breed's expression is unique as well. The head is not rounded, which is often referred to as a Chihuahua head, nor is it a totally flat terrier head; as our standard states, it should be moderate, from the rounding of the skull to the moderate stop as well. Of course we do not want an upturned Shih Tzu face, nor a down-nosed "pencil-face."

The Maltese expression is enhanced by black rims around the eyes and a black nose. As fashion has set in other breeds, the word "halo," or the skin around the eyes, does make a more piercing expression; however, nowhere in our

TOY GROUP



Maltese

standard is that called for. Many dogs from areas where the sun is out longer or stronger often have better halos. However, if a dog is a very good specimen of the breed, it should not be penalized for lack of halos, providing the total eye pigment is around the eye.

If the Maltese flows around the ring, generally the build of the dog is correct. Just think if you can put a plate on the back of the dog in your mind, and it doesn't go up and down but stays level, all the

legs are working correctly. Also, the tail-set should be coming straight off the backline, up and over the back, with the tip touching the hindquarters. If you see a twitch to the tail, it is working like a rudder, and there is something wrong with the rear assembly.

Maltese are real clowns and love attention. If they are naughty in the ring, that is part of their personality.

—Daryl Martin,
daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net
American Maltese
Association

Papillons

THE ELEMENTS OF TYPE

What is type? Type can have diverse meanings. It is what distinguishes a dog to look like his own breed and not like any other. It can infer that all the features specified in the breed standard are present and in just the right places and proportions. You can also say type is derived from the breed's characteristics.

“Fine-boned and dainty” and the word *elegant* are the first elements of breed type. These descriptive words contribute most to breed type because they are mentioned in the Papillon breed standard *at least four times*, making elegance and refinement extremely important and not to be disregarded.

When we define Papillon type, we should also know what qualities are atypical and make a dog lack type. For example, a dog lacking in breed type would tend to be heavier in bone and possibly even lower on leg, thus not providing an elegant appearance. This

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does not mean a dog larger in height should be heavy boned; quite the contrary. An 11-inch Papillon, at the top of the size range, (over 11 inches being a fault, and over 12 inches a disqualification) should be fined-boned and dainty, just as an eight-inch Papillon and all sizes in between.

The differences can be subtle, depending on the degree to which the specimen diverts from the standard and its breed type. Many Papillons in the ring today are results of imports, some of which adhere to different breed standards than our own AKC Papillon breed standard. There are some who are larger in size and in bone, and some who lack elegance possibly due to their standard from their country of origin, which are divided by weight.

As in most breeds, the visual picture one sees first is the outline or silhouette. It is the overall appearance of a dog that judges look at first as each one gaits around the ring, even before



they place their hands on a dog for examination. Once they place their hands on the dog, it should be friendly, self-assured, and never shy, especially since their outgoing temperament is an important characteristic of a Papillon/Phalene.

The erect-eared variety of the breed, the Papillon, proudly carries their large, rounded butterfly-like ears at a 45-degree angle when erect, while the drop-eared variety, known as the Phalene, carries the ears

down. However, the ears are the only difference between the two varieties, and all the rest of the details of the breed remain the same. It's these details that define the breed's characteristics and what makes the breed unique.

The head is small and round, and the eyes are round in shape and give a sweet expression when placement is level with the stop. They are set wide, not close, and the color is dark, nearly black, surrounded by



TOY GROUP

well-pigmented black eye-rims. Also black in color are their lips and nose-pads.

Be aware that on closer examination, you may see incorrect details on the head that distract from a pleasing appearance of this beautiful breed. It should be noted that flat skulls, large heads, and heavy and/or coarse muzzles that lack a defined stop and/or tapering will alter the breed's sweet expression, as will poor ear placements, such as high- or low-set ears or ears that are poor in shape and size, such as pointed and/or small ears. There are also faults such as light eyes and lack of pigmentation that distract from a pleasing expression and are contributing factors that make a Papillon appear "common" and lacking in type.

Other important breed characteristics are their harelike feet that are oval in shape and are never round. This adds to their elegance and refinement. I see so many lacking oval-shaped feet in the breed ring, and

instead see more incorrect round feet! The tail is long and is set high and well arched over their back. Their coat is fine, silky, and single-coated, lying flat on their back, which flows when moving, and is never coarse or bushy like that of a Pom.

Their ear-fringing is like "the icing on a cake." Many lines are not fully fringed until after two years old and should be judged accordingly, as with markings. When all else is equal, you should not penalize a dog for not having symmetrical facial markings, nor one lacking a blaze or having a solid head.

Movement is normal. At a normal speed, they should single-track and not be exaggerated. They should not high-step nor cross over but reach well in front.

Breeders should have high standards and know there is always room for improvement in our search for the perfect Papillon and/or Phalene. All of these aforementioned differences may be subtle, but to a discerning

eye, it is disturbing. Being a breeder of Papillons for over 40 years, I feel it is our responsibility as a breeder to be the custodians of our breed standard, and therefore we should not change it. —Roseann Fucillo

[Papillon Club of America](#)

Pekingese

JUDGING THE PEKINGESE

Following are some important points about the breed.

- The Pekingese is categorized as a brachycephalic achondroplastic (that is, dwarf) breed, so some of its desired attributes are not what one may typically desire in a dog.

- The Pekingese should be *dense* and should pick up much heavier than he looks, with a greater proportion of the weight distributed in the front half of the dog. A Pekingese shall have a disproportionately massive head and thick, heavy bones for his diminutive stature.

- The Pekingese has an unusual pear-shaped body

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that is wide in front and narrower in the rear.

- The Pekingese has a distinctive rolling gait that is the result of the pear-shaped body, wide front, narrow rear, correct weight distribution, and moderately bowed front legs.

The Pekingese is a well-balanced, compact dog of Chinese origin with a pear-shaped body featuring a heavy front and lighter hindquarters. Its temperament is one of directness, independence, and individuality. Its image is lion-like, implying courage, dignity, boldness, and self-esteem rather than daintiness and delicacy.

On the first impression, look for a compact (not square), thickset dog that is low to ground, with a large, envelope-shaped head, high tail-set, and a self-important attitude.

On the table examine the headpiece for lustrous, dark, wide-set eyes; broad muzzle; firm chin; and pleasing facial features. A line drawn horizontally over the top of the



nose should intersect slightly above the center of the eyes

You want a thickset, muscular body that is surprisingly heavy and dense when lifted. Additionally, you should find a dog with a massive, shallow head; a deep chest with a good spring of rib, tapering off to a narrow waist and rear, a level topline, high-set tail and not to exceed 14 pounds. The Pekingese make and shape is critical to make what truly is the Pekingese. The forequarters are thick and heavy boned. The bones of the forelegs are

moderately bowed between the pastern and the elbow. The broad chest, wide-set forelegs, and closer rear legs contribute to the correct rolling gait. Shoulders are well laid back and fit smoothly onto the body. Front feet are turned out slightly when standing or moving. The adult coat is a long, coarse-textured, stand-off outer coat, with a softer undercoat. The coat forms a noticeable mane on the neck and shoulder area, with the coat on the remainder of the body somewhat shorter in length. A profuse coat is

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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desirable, providing it does not obscure the body shape. Any obvious trimming is to be severely penalized.

The AKC asked for a statement clarifying the lift of the Pekingese during the exam. Following is the statement from the parent club:

“The Pekingese Club of America would like to state that in order to properly judge a Pekingese, it is essential that the dog must be lifted. The lift will determine the weight distribution and the density of the dog. You are not lifting to determine the weight, if you feel the exhibit is over 14 pounds, call for the scale. Our Study Guide that has been distributed to all Pekingese judges states, ‘Pekingese should be small but surprisingly heavy with the majority of the weight found in the front half of their bodies. Lifting the dog two or three inches off the table will confirm this. Wrap your arm around the dog behind the shoulders and under the body and use your other arm to support

the chest from the front.’

“This only reason for lifting a Pekingese is to determine that when lifted, the dog is solid and surprisingly heavy for its size and that the dog is indeed heavier in front. All weights are correct within the limit of 14 pounds, and the scale should be called if a judge suspects the weight is over.”

The Pekingese Club of America presents a judges’ education seminar every year at its national specialty. Additionally, the PCA has mentors in various locations available to present the seminar to local judges’ groups or to offer one-on-one mentoring. New judges are mailed a study guide from the PCA. There are additional judges’ resources at [AKC.org](http://www.thepekingeseclubofamerica.net) and the Pekingese Club of America website (<http://www.thepekingeseclubofamerica.net>).

The Pekingese is a fascinating breed; please get to know it better. —*Susan F. Shephard*

[The Pekingese Club of America](http://www.thepekingeseclubofamerica.net)

Pomeranians

EXAMINING THE DOG ON THE TABLE

The Pomeranian is a short-backed, double-coated, and animated toy dog. Observing the Pomeranian on the ground while standing and moving is the best way to judge the overall outline and carriage of the dog, but as with any coated breed, the examination is key to evaluating the structure and soundness of the dog.

The Pomeranian must be examined on the table during judging. The table is a helpful tool for small breeds, putting them at an appropriate height for examination without requiring a judge to lean or tower over the dog. Dogs must be trained for the table examination and should be accustomed to showing the bite. Pomeranians should not be shy or fearful on the table, but they should not be expected to stand like statues. They are still toy dogs, and their “vivacious spirit” should not be faulted.

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As a judge, when approaching the dog for examination, pause briefly to view the dog from the side. This is another chance to view the silhouette of the dog, this time at eye level, and can confirm or reinforce what you saw when the dog was on the ground. Be sure to finish approaching the dog from the front so they can see you as you walk closer. With so much

coat, sometimes approaching them from the side will place you in their blind spot.

I see many judges make sounds or squeak a toy as they approach the table or after they have finished the exam. Judges should not evaluate expression in this manner while the dog is standing on the table. Unless a dog is more mature and more trained, like some seasoned champions, many

will not use their ears on the table. Instead, use the table to feel the shape of the muzzle under the coat, feel the stop, feel the shape of the back-skull, feel where the ears are set on the head, and feel the length of the ear. You can observe the shape, color, and placement of the eye, as well as pigment of the eye-rims and the nose. Once the dog is on the ground, then you can evaluate their expression with erect ears and compare what you see to what you felt during the exam.

In addition to the basics of evaluating the bite and checking for testicles on males, the examination must be thorough enough to feel the structure of the dog under the coat. This includes feeling the front construction of the dog, the shoulder layback, the topline, length of body and loin, set and carriage of the tail, angulation of the rear, and straightness of the legs. It is important that the Pomeranian be a sound and sturdy dog. Structure can be further evaluated while the

DAVID WOO ©AKC



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dog is moving, but coat and trimming can be deceiving. Be sure to use the time on the table to complete a gentle yet comprehensive exam of what lies under the coat.

“Even though a Toy dog, the Pomeranian must be subject to the same requirements of soundness and structure prescribed for all breed”

This is also the time to evaluate the density, texture, and condition of the coat. This is a spitz breed of Nordic descent and should have a harsh double coat that is capable of protecting them from the snow and cold. An incorrect cotton coat lacking guard hairs or a soft, flat, or open coat should be faulted in adults. The coat must be in good condition and should not be severely trimmed, especially the rear skirt, tail, and undercarriage. Puppies are allowed to have a shorter coat that lacks guard hairs.

A Pomeranian should be sound, proportionate, and balanced both standing and moving. While breed type and overall appearance are

an essential part of judging this breed, making effective use of the examination will help you to fully evaluate what lies under the coat.

—Stephanie Hentschel,
darrightpoms@gmail.com
American Pomeranian Club

Shih Tzu

TRIBUTE: JO ANN WHITE

The editors are saddened to share the news that Jo Ann White, the American Shih Tzu Club’s longtime columnist for the GAZETTE, passed away on March 4 at the age of 82. Following is her obituary that appeared in the Bradenton [Florida] Times.

“Jo Ann was born on September 7, 1941, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to Lloyd and Josephine White and grew up in Southern New Jersey. She graduated as Valedictorian from Southern Regional High School in 1959. She attended Duke University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1963. She then completed her

Master’s degree in 1968 from New York University.

“Jo Ann spent her professional life working in publishing—as an editor, writer, and researcher. She was also the author of four books.

“In addition to publishing, Jo Ann had a lifelong passion for breeding, raising, and showing Shih Tzu dogs and was known globally for her extensive knowledge of the breed. She held executive positions and served on the Board of Directors for the American Shih Tzu Club, where she continued to serve until the time of her death.

“Jo Ann also had a passion for gardening and served on the gardening committee, where she lived. In addition, she loved theater, ballet, and music and did volunteer work in her local theaters.

“Jo Ann will be deeply missed by her loving family and friends. She is survived by her brother, Michael White; her stepchildren Sharyn Lawall, Deborah Pappas, and Richard Lawall; and her eight grandchildren.

BREED COLUMNS



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Jo Ann White, author of The Official Book of the Shih Tzu and our columnist for the American Shih Tzu Club for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard W. Lawall, and stepdaughter Patrice Lawall. Although Jo Ann's presence will be greatly missed, her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

“Donations can be made to the Sarasota Ballet (<http://www.sarasotaballet.org>), the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (<http://www.phassociation.org>), or the American Shih Tzu Club Charitable Trust (http://www.shihtzu.org/charitable_trust) in Jo Ann's honor.”

In 2020 the American Shih Tzu Club Board of Directors honored Jo Ann with the AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award. The club website notes:

“Her devotion and service to our breed and the whole dog fancy began over fifty years ago. She was actively exhibiting her first Shih Tzu Tien and Nushi



COURTESY FAMILY AND THE AMERICAN SHIH TZU CLUB



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in matches during the later 1960s, before Shih Tzu were officially able to compete in AKC shows.

“Jo Ann has been active in not only Shih Tzu clubs but also all-breed clubs throughout the years. Her membership in the American Shih Tzu Club began in 1973, making her the longest active member of our club. Her involvement has taken many forms. She has served on the board of directors for many years, including serving as president during 1995.

“Jo Ann is a member of not only ASTC but also the Shih Tzu Club of Central Florida and the Manatee, Florida, all-breed club. During her early days she was active in the Shih Tzu Fanciers of Greater New York. ... Last, but not least, Jo Ann made a lasting contribution to our breed in writing what many regard as the definitive book on the Shih Tzu breed, *The Official Book of the Shih Tzu*. ...

“Jo Ann is the epitome of which every canine enthu-

siast should strive to be.”
(Judith Wilson, ASTC website, 2020)

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

ADVICE FOR NEW PUPPY OWNERS

Questions. We get questions. Breeders know that when their puppies go to their new homes, the new owners will have questions or look for advice. Once home with the tiny puppy, the new puppy owners sometimes feel overwhelmed with the enormity of the task they took on with such a small creature.

Recently we asked experienced breeders and owners in the American Toy Fox Terrier Club, “What’s the one best piece of advice you have for a person with their first Toy Fox puppy?” Their answers were thoughtful and reflected the questions they’ve often received over the years.

First, the definite theme they provided is *have patience and use repetition*. Puppies

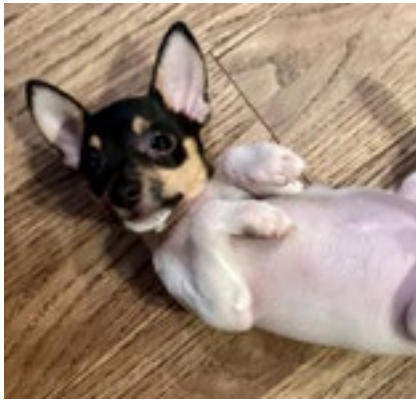
are a challenge, but with persistence they more than reward you in love and affection later.

Another piece of advice that many shared is that Toy Fox Terrier puppies think they can fly, so don’t allow them on furniture unless you’re holding them. Many puppies jump or fall from a high spot and a broken leg is the result. This is also the reason many breeders suggest pet insurance for at least the first year.

The breeders asked agree that teaching the new puppy about the crate is very important. Puppies and dogs should love their crates. At some point in their lives they are going to need to be in a crate, and they should not be fearful of it. Crates are useful for traveling, at the vet, in emergencies such as evacuations, and for confinement after surgery, and are a huge help in housebreaking. Use positive training and make the crate a haven for the puppy.

To avoid the puppy becoming a barker, several

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Important advice for new owners of Toy Fox Terrier puppies: “Have patience and use repetition.”



breeders suggest to their puppy buyers that they teach “No bark.” There are several methods for this, such as teaching the pup to “speak” on command—and then to stop barking on command. Others suggest correcting a bark with a verbal “no bark,” and reward with a treat when quiet.

Some dogs bark because they don’t like to be left alone, so teach them from

the beginning that you will go and return. It is natural to want to spend time with the new puppy, but when school or work comes around on Monday the puppy will be upset at the sudden loss of your company. From the first day, use the crate or

puppy pen for alone times and naps. Help the puppy get accustomed to short periods of time alone. Keep your return low-key so your coming and going becomes an unexciting event for the puppy.

Socialization was also emphasized by the breeders. Allow and encourage experienced people to hold the puppy. Take the puppy to places that are safe and not overwhelming, and give them fun and short new experiences. Many breeders also said to avoid dog parks with the puppies.

COURTESY SUSAN THIBODEAUX



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While it's easy to hold a TFT puppy, from the beginning get him or her used to a leash and collar. It is suggested by several TFT breeders that you practice walking the puppy on a leash every day, even if it's just in the backyard or on the driveway. Very short sessions with squeaky toys and tiny treats will make learning to walk on a leash fun. There are wide, soft collars available that are safer for the puppy's trachea, so talk to the breeder about those.

And about talking to your breeder. Most breeders interviewed said if you have a question, don't immediately seek advice from strangers on social media. If you carefully researched and chose a responsible, experienced breeder, then ask them your questions first. We expect and encourage questions and want to help our puppies be successful in their new homes.

—Susan Thibodeaux,
president@atftc.com
American Toy Fox Terrier Club

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American Eskimo Dogs

AEDCA 2024 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The American Eskimo Dog Club of America (AEDCA) held its 2024 national specialty, with events in conformation and rally obedience, in sunny Phoenix, Arizona, on March 1. The national specialty judge was Mr. Jeffrey Bazell. He had some wonderful dogs to choose from.

Best of Breed was GCh.G Emerald City's Midnight Hour, "Rebel." He was shown by Tammie Wilcox and is owned by Kris Oliverson and Tammie Wilcox.

Best of Opposite Sex was Ch. Cada Monro, owned by Victoria Rundle.

Owner-Handled Best of Breed was GCh. Ananna's American Star at Stormrunner, owned by Leneia and Casandra Rogowski and Justin Scoffield.

Emerald City's Chasing Dreams, "Chase," won Winners Dog, Best of Winners, and Best Bred-

by-Exhibitor dog from the classes. He was bred and shown by Tammie Wilcox and is owned by Kris Oliverson and Tammie Wilcox.

Winners Bitch was won by Trinity Ivy Rose, owned and shown by Angel Samich.

GCh.G Ducat's Smokin' Hot, OA, AXJ, AXP, OF, NFP, T2B, BCAT, SCA, SIN, "Smokey," won Select Dog, Best Veteran, and Best Bred by Exhibitor in Show. He is owned by Heather Bushey, Kalin Bushey, and Helen Dorrance. He was bred and shown by Helen Dorrance.

Select Bitch was won by Kris Oliverson's 13-year-old GCh.S Emerald City's Wildcard Winner, "Chloe."

Emerald City's "Chloe" (age 13), her son "Rebel" (age 6), and his son "Chase" (almost a year old) also won the Generations class.

GCh.B Klondyke's White Diamond, BN, RN, DCAT, CGCA and her daughter Klondyke's Ice Crystals, owned by Sandra Dankberg-Yontz and

BREED COLUMNS

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The American Eskimo Dog Club of America held the breed's 2024 national specialty March 1 in Phoenix, Arizona. Pictured: Best of Breed; Best of Opposite Sex; WD, BW, Best Bred-by Dog, Best in Sweeps; BB Owner-Handled; Select Dog, Best Veteran, Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show; Select Bitch; Generations class; Brace class; WB.

Amanda Dankberg, made a beautiful brace and won the class.

Exhibitors could also participate in a rally obedience trial. The AEDCA Rally

Obedience trial was judged by Ms. Dawn M. Antoniak-Mitchell, Esq. Seminole Wind, RN, CGC, owned by Judy C. McGraw, won the rally trial with a score

of 98.0.

Exhibitors also had the opportunity to participate in three additional AEDCA designated specialties in conjunction with the

COURTESY THY CAVANERO, BOB KOHLER, AND AEDCA



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Superstition Kennel Club’s all-breed shows on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

On Saturday night, Eskie exhibitors got together for an awards banquet at Aunt Chilada’s—a locally owned restaurant famous for its lush gardens and authentic Mexican food.

It was a wonderful weekend and a great opportunity to see old friends and meet new exhibitors.

—Katherine Smith,
Snowfoxeskies@gmail.com
American Eskimo Dog Club of America

Bichons Frises

Our guest columnist is Chérie Ekholm.

NEW BICHON FRISE PEDIGREE DATABASE IN PROGRESS

Many breeds have a pedigree database that shows ancestors, health information, titles, breeders, owners, and other facts about their purebred dogs. Unfortunately for Bichon breeders, we don’t currently have such a tool available.



That, however, is about to change.

Today, to look up pedigrees, we have to either rely on the simple three- to five-generation pedigrees most breeders and the AKC provide, or search online through the AKC records, OFA information, national registry databases, and random online pedigree sites that have a smattering of Bichons. Even after a lot of research, we are left with many unanswered questions about the ancestry of our dogs. Tracing Bichon pedigrees is a clunky,

time-consuming, and frustrating process in our efforts to get a really good look at dogs we’re thinking of including in our breeding programs.

In September 2023, the Bichon Frise Club of America (BFCA) Board of Directors voted to create a committee to build a Bichon Frise pedigree database. The committee, chaired by me and including Board members Matt Abbott, Roz Allen, Sheri Kennedy, and BFCA members Sue Swindle and Judy McNamara, is using as a starting point a data-

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

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base that I've been working with for several years. This database was originally created by Australian Peter Eerden in the 1990s, and contained approximately 12,500 Bichons from the U.S., Canada, Australia, and several European countries, beginning with the modern founders of the breed in the 1930s through the mid-1990s. Over the last few years, another 2,500 current Bichons have been added. There are still huge gaps in the information, however, from 1994 through today.

The goals of the new Bichon Frise pedigree database project are to give Bichon breeders an easy and efficient way to:

- Look up pedigrees, health information, and pictures for Bichons around the world.
- Do test breedings—see potential litter pedigrees and research the breeding more easily and thoroughly.
- Share information with one another.
- Add our own records into one, easy-to-use place that is

backed up regularly to prevent information loss.

We've begun incorporating AKC information from the missing years to enhance our existing information. Each month, the AKC sends parent clubs a monthly report of new breed title-holders for all titles. The data include dog name, sire and dam names, month titled, owners (at the time of titling), and breeders. In our case, the club then uses this info to tabulate the BFCA breeder, sire and dam of the year. As the new pedigree database matures, we will create a process to add these monthly data.

Additionally, we will work to gather information from other trusted registries around the world. Since 1994, the popularity of Bichons has spread to Eastern Europe and Asia, which are underrepresented in our current data. We also will need to add pictures and health information as we have time going forward.

As we incorporate the new pedigrees into the exist-

ing database, we are also looking for a way to host the database online so that everyone can use it to look up our pedigrees. There are a number of possibilities for this, including private servers where we would have to build our own web experience, companies that will do all the web-facing and administrative work, and multiple possibilities between these two extremes. In the coming months, we will be looking at all the options and choosing one.

We welcome advice from other clubs that have done this work and any technical support others might be able to offer. —Chérie Ekholm, wrappedupindogs@outlook.com, Redmond, Washington
[Bichon Frise Club of America](#)

Boston Terriers

RESEARCHING DOG FOOD: IS IT SAFE?

Just because a dog-food company said it's safe to feed their product to your dog, is it? Unlike in the past,

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Boston Terrier

we now have resources such as Facebook and the internet. We can read books on dog nutrition such as *Food Pets Die For*. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration website posts information on problems with certain dog foods and ingredients and handles complaints. (Look up FDA dog food warnings, www.fda.gov.)

In June 2018, the FDA announced that it had begun investigating reports of canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs

eating certain pet foods, many labeled as “grain free.” These case reports included breeds of dogs not previously known to have a genetic predisposition to the disease. (Look for FDA “Terminated Recalls,” in the Recall Archive.) Also listed are reports on top dog food companies that have problems such as potentially elevated levels of vitamin D, bird food with elevated levels of aflatoxin, and a cooked food that has recalled due to

potential salmonella contamination.

Another website called Dog Food Recalls provides free alerts when dog food is unsafe.

Virginia Flynn, DVM, gave me some wonderful advice 30 years ago: Offer your dog two different dry dog foods mixed together, and if there is something wrong with one, the dog won’t eat it. In feeding just one food, of course not having a choice the dog, being hungry, usually eats it. Dr. Flynn was a great veterinarian and Boston terrier breeder who will be missed by the dog world.

More information: Line an airtight container with wax paper, then mix only half of the two bags together, and close the bags, letting all air out, and tape to seal. By lining the container, excess fat from the food is prevented from adhering to the interior of the container itself and keeps the food from going rancid. Sealing the leftover food keeps it fresh, like having a new bag of food.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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Boston Terriers are really smart, and if things don't please them, change is required, because if not you will have a stressful day. Thinking they are like other dogs is a mistake. You have a diva dog who is good at training people. Having a very sensitive stomach, they require good, wholesome food. They will give you so much love while teaching you many lessons about what is expected.

Many of the mistakes made in feeding are due to not listening to the dog's needs. Problems such as diarrhea and stomach upset can be mostly prevented if research is done. The saying that "you are what you eat," is so true with animals because they eat the same thing daily. How many times do people blame the breeder for selling a dog who develops cancer, birth defects, or other health problems? Diet plays a large role in canine health. Owners need to understand what is in the food, instead of the brand name.

The first few ingredients listed on the label are mainly what is in the food. Have you ever thought what beet pulp is? It is dried residue from sugar beet—it is added for fiber but is primarily sugar, which gets pets hooked on the taste. Some dogs don't do well with fish oils, and there are some very good dog foods that instead contain other oils that provide the same beneficial omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids. Flaxseed, linseed, coconut, olive, sunflower, and safflower oil are just a few. Regarding amounts of these appropriate for your dog's diet, ask your veterinarian.

Many foods contain the preservatives BHA and BHT, which have been suspected as being carcinogenic. In a letter to the Center for Veterinary Medicine, Wendell Belfield, DMV, wrote that these two chemicals can initiate birth defects and damage to liver and kidneys. The Animal Protection Institute (API) stated in a 1996 report that

ethoxyquin has been associated with immune deficiency. Food-coloring dyes like Red 40, Blue 2, and Yellow 5 and 6 are linked to allergy-type symptoms. These are added to foods simply to make them more appealing for us to buy.

Research everything to protect your beloved Boston Terrier who depends on you. This is not a cheap breed to own. A Boston is like a precious gift that keeps on giving enjoyment. What a privilege it is to experience such a wonderful, unconditional love.

—Patricia S. Johnson,
BTCA and DWAA,
patsgrooming@gmail.com
[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

Bulldogs

THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA AND BREED HEALTH

The Bulldog Club of America (BCA) has been very proactive in the way of Bulldog health for many years. Developed mainly by Russ Thomas in

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the 1980s, the BCA Health Committee continues to be an active entity within the BCA.

Following shortly after the Health Committee's creation was the establishment of the BCA Charitable Fund (BCACF). The BCACF has funded several health studies, most notably the trachea measurement study in cooperation with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

Along with cardiac and patella testing, the OFA trachea measurement is part of the CHIC requirements for the Bulldog. (CHIC is the Canine Health Information Center, which is a health database associated with the OFA.)

The BCA introduced its Ambassador for Health program in 2011. The program has five levels of recognition; Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The Diamond level was added in 2017.

Passing results are required on all eligible certifications except DNA-based health screenings



Bulldog, January 1977 (James Dearing photo)

(passing results eligible for certification are defined by OFA). Any result will be accepted for DNA based health screenings. All results, however, must be submitted to OFA and be verifiable in their public database.

Eligible certifications include OFA congenital cardiac (all cardiac certifications accepted, although echo is preferred); OFA patellar luxation, OFA tracheal hypoplasia, OFA thyroid, OFA elbow dysplasia, and OFA hip dysplasia.

Eligible DNA-based

health screenings are for hyperuicosuria and Type 3 cystinuria.

The requirements for each level are:

Bronze—Successful completion of any four of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings.

Silver—Successful completion of any five of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings.

Gold—Successful completion of any six of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings.

Platinum—Successful completion of any seven of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings.

Diamond—Successful completion of *all* of the eligible certifications/DNA screenings submitted to the OFA public database.

As of 2021 there were over 500 BCA Health Ambassadors, with 156 Platinum and 34 Diamond-level Ambassadors. It is interesting to note that several of our Platinum and Diamond-level Health Ambassadors are also

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top-winning show dogs. Nearly 20 Platinum and Diamond-level dogs are multiple Best in Show and Best in Specialty Show winners, including national-specialty winners.

In honor of Russ Thomas, the BCACF established the Russ Thomas Health Award. This award, plus \$100, is presented to the BCA national-specialty Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex winners, if they happen to be Platinum or Diamond-level Health Ambassadors, during the national awards banquet held during national-specialty week. Several dogs qualified prior to this award being created, but 2021 saw the first dog officially recognized.

The Platinum and Diamond Health Ambassadors are also honored at our national-specialty awards banquet. We feature a running slideshow of these dogs, plus the slideshow video is shared on our social media outlets and displayed on the official BCA website.

The BCA strongly encourages the breeding of healthy Bulldogs. The available health tests are easily performed by local veterinarians. These test results are excellent tools for breeders to utilize in order to select outstanding individuals for their breeding programs. Unfortunately, the emphasis in the media has been on the sickest dogs who frequent the veterinary clinics. There is an entire population of Bulldogs who rarely need to visit a veterinarian office for anything other than shots. It is exceedingly important for these healthy, normal Bulldogs to stay in the conversation and not be dismissed or forgotten.

The BCA feels that showcasing the healthiest dogs is an outstanding way to educate the public to not accept unhealthy dogs as somehow normal. What is normal for the breed is to be healthy and to achieve the highest levels of the Health Ambassador program.

—Elizabeth Milam,
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Bulldog Club of America

Chinese Shar-Pei

MISCONCEPTIONS

One of my favorite all-breed shows any year I get to go is the Louisville cluster held every March. There is so much going on, so many dogs, many vendors, and the parking is great. I can't sing its praises enough! Top dogs and handlers are there, and it's a great show site (wear comfy shoes, it's huge). And this year I got to do one of my true loves: ringside mentor! Teaching judges and talking dogs with people wanting to know my breed is just joyful for me.

I wish I had known that there was a new misconception about the breed that I could have addressed there, but I didn't hear about it until after I got back. It seems that some judges are under the impression that Shar-Pei should have furry faces! I have no idea

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Fawn and red Chinese Shar-Pei. The breed standard does not require the breed to have fur on the muzzle.

where that is coming from (like the old “mold in the folds” rumors, which still come up), but this seems a good opportunity to correct it. There is nothing in the standard nor in real life that requires this breed to have fur on their muzzles.

The standard reads:

“Muzzle—one of the distinctive features of the breed. It is broad and full with no suggestion of snippiness. (The length from nose to stop is approximately the same as from stop to occiput.) Nose—large and wide and darkly pigmented, preferably black but any color conforming to

the general coat color of the dog is acceptable. In dilute colors, the preferred nose is self-colored. Darkly pigmented cream Shar-Pei may have some light pigment either in the center of the nose or on the entire nose. The lips and top of muzzle are well padded and may cause a slight bulge above the nose.”

If you look at pictures of a variety of Shar-Pei on the parent club website (<http://www.cspca.com>), you will see that there may be whiskers, and some very fine hairs on some muzzles, but by and large, just flesh. Black muzzles are black from

pigment. Dilutes and dogs with pigment that goes with their coloring (cream, red dilute, chocolate, and so on) will have skin that is not black but goes with their coat color.

The bottom line is that no Shar-Pei should be penalized for not having fur on the muzzle, because they are not supposed to, and you would rarely find that.

Also, when I was mentoring, I was asked about eyes and if the judges are expected to look for entropion. They were very relieved when I said absolutely not. If the dog can't open its eye, put it to the end of the line—but it could be dust in the eye, or maybe it got poked in the eye. No judge is expected to make a veterinary decision, nor do they need to touch the eyelids. Simply make a noise and see if the dog looks at you. Easy-peasy!

While on the topic, I would also note, as a former judge, that the judge sees things in the ring that we don't see from the outside.



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So a seemingly confusing placement could be for a number of reasons unseen or unfelt by us. (And in fairness, sometimes judges just have different priorities. Some of that comes from their backgrounds, experience, and training.) I once had a judge ask if black toenails were preferred. I replied, “If your ring is so full of great examples of the breed that it comes down to toenails, cool beans!” A friend reminded me of that many years later with a smile.

Plan ahead! The 2024 CSPCA national specialty will be September 15–20, at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For more details, as always, visit <http://www.cspca.com>.

—Karen Kleinhans
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Chinese Shar-Pei Club of
America

Chow Chows

THE COMPANION CHOW CHOW

The Chow Chow is one of the most devoted

and treasured companions. They are quiet, clean, and intelligent. Yes, they can be stubborn, but once they understand the task at hand they embrace the responsibility, and it becomes part of the unfaltering devotion that each chow fancier treasures.

Many families include multiple well-behaved Chows in their home and daily life, including taking them with them on daily errands and vacations. Road trips are particularly enjoyable, and many hotels are now recognizing that the family expects to include their dog in the family travel plans.

The Chow Chow is an excellent housedog and rarely is destructive, dirty, or noisy in the home or while traveling with the family. It is not unusual for a Chow puppy to be totally house trained at the age of 6 weeks or before. They enjoy being included in family activities and quickly learn the household schedule. Due to the lack of angulation in the rear, Chows are usually

not jumpers and are quite content to lie on a cool floor rather than fluffy sofa. They do require regular exercise, and a nice, long walk or a romp in the yard are always enjoyed. A good, fresh snow makes any activity more exciting.

Having shared our home with Chow Chows for over 40 years, we cannot imagine life without at least one! We encourage owners to socialize their Chow and perhaps enjoy participation in dog performance events such as rally, agility, and obedience. We are very proud of the many Chows that are registered Therapy Dogs.

The AKC offers many well-managed activities in which to compete or participate. If you are interested in conformation competition, there are many events throughout the country and world in which you and your Chow Chow can participate, as well as many resources to help you learn and enjoy the events. National, regional, and local dog clubs are wonderful venues

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Chow Chow puppy. Chow Chows are excellent housedogs and enjoy being included in family activities.

for meeting other fanciers, learning and contributing your skills to the dog world. Clubs are always eager to share their passion with new fanciers and many fanciers are members of national, regional, and local breed and all-breed organizations. Many long and wonderful

friendships are developed with fanciers in these organizations.

Remember that you do *not* have to show your dog at dog shows or events in order to belong to a dog fanciers club. Everyone in these organizations is a dog lover—and would enjoy

having you join them.

We urge anyone who is interested in learning more about our breed to visit with Chow fanciers in their area, attend dog shows, explore the opportunity to join a dog club, and use the information on the AKC website (www.akc.org) and the site of the Chow Chow Club, Inc. (www.chowclub.org). There are also several excellent books available about the Chow Chow, and an excellent quarterly magazine published by the Chow Chow Club, Inc. We are fortunate to have several wonderful Chow Chow rescue organizations which can be contacted online or by telephone at the addresses furnished on the websites.

—Love Banghart,
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Chow Chow Club, Inc.

Dalmatians

FATAL FLORA

Spring is here and bursting forth with flowers and plants sharing color and fragrance. It makes

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Dalmatian pup in the garden. Dogs like to investigate and even chew or eat pieces of plants, so it's important to make sure the species in your yard and home are safe.

one smile just to think of them. However, some of those beautiful and aromatic blossoms can hide a deadly secret that can sicken or even kill our beloved dogs (and cats). So, let's look at some of these secret assassins.

- Bulb-type plants are dangerous, with the bulbs themselves often being the most toxic part of the plant. Ingestion of tulips, chrysanthemums, daisies, or hyacinths can cause gas-

trointestinal upset, with the potential for lots of drooling and vomiting. Thankfully with vet care, most pets recover.

- Foxglove is one of the most toxic plants. Any part of the plant can be fatal to both our pets and us. Foxglove contains digitalis—in fact *Digitalis* is the scientific name for a genus of about 20 species of related plants. Digitalis can cause heart arrhythmias

that can lead to death. Even in just handling the plants, the fine hairs on their leaves can cause rashes and breathing the pollen can result in breathing issues and irritation.

- Azaleas and rhododendrons are plants to avoid as well. They are used extensively in landscaping, but ingestion of the leaves can cause stomach irritation, paralysis, coma, and even death.

- Oleanders are full of toxins in both the leaves and flowers. This can result in tremors and seizures as well as abnormal heart rates, all of which can lead to death.

- Sago palms are one of the absolute worst; another of the toxic bulb-type species, its seeds and seedpods are the most deadly parts of the plant. Even small amounts of seeds can cause acute liver failure.

Thankfully, on the flip side, there are many beautiful plants that you can add to your garden, knowing they will not harm our dogs.

- Marigolds will not only

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make for beautiful color in your garden, but they are also perfectly safe for dogs and the bees will love them too. A true win-win situation.

- Sunflowers epitomize summer and add a stunning look to your garden. They will also attract birds to your garden as the seeds mature throughout the season.

- Pineapple sage plants, with their gorgeous blooms, also attract hummingbirds, which in themselves are a delight to watch. They are also completely safe for humans and can be added to fruit salads and salsas.

- Nasturtiums are also a welcome garden favorite. The flowers are edible, with a surprising spicy flavor. Couple their beautiful colors and heavenly smell, you won't go wrong.

So, with a little forethought, plan out a lovely and safe outdoor area to be enjoyed but all.

—Jan Warren Linné,
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Dalmatian Club of America

French Bulldogs

BOAS TESTING: THE NEW TOOL FOR THE FRENCH BULLDOG BREEDER

“One of the Animal Rights [movement’s] goals is the elimination of purebred dogs. To further this goal, they seek breed bans, often targeting one or two breeds at a time, or breeds with a particular feature such as brachycephalic heads. Brachycephalic breeds are those which have a shorter nose and flatter face,” says Cindy Stansell, purebred dog lobbyist. “Europe (especially Netherlands, Norway, Germany, and Austria) has been, until now, the epicenter of breed bans of registered dogs through legislation, court cases, or regulation.”

Currently there is a proposed bill in New Hampshire that would criminalize the breeding and sale of any breed with a “defect.” Brachycephaly is defined in the New Hampshire bill as a “defect,” despite the fact that it is simply one of the

three canine head shapes.

The French Bull Dog Club of America (FBDCA) has encouraged its members to health-test their dogs and is developing new programs to increase awareness of the need to screen. Additionally, the AKC, the FBDCA, and French Bulldog preservation breeders have worked hard offering education to the public through “Meet the Breeds” events, the club website, and social-media campaigns.

The popularity of the French Bulldog, Pug, and Bulldog breeds have grown in the past few years, explained Eddie Dziuk, chief operating officer of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). “The public finds these breeds extremely endearing,” he said. The French Bulldog was named the number-one registered breed in 2023 by the AKC. As a result, more people have taken to breeding these dogs without careful consideration of the breed standard or their health and welfare.

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French Bulldog

Why are the animal-rights activists targeting brachy breeds? These breeds can suffer from brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS). BOAS happens when soft tissue from the nose and/or throat block the dog's airway. This

could mean they have an elongated palate, stenotic nares, narrowed trachea, a narrow jaw, a short neck, or a combination of these features. Obesity is also a large contributing factor in developing BOAS.

Preservation breeders are

constantly seeking tools to improve the health of the dogs. One tool, developed by The Royal Kennel Club and University of Cambridge, is the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS), which provides guidance in identifying if a dog is affected and the severity. The intent of this testing is to improve understanding of the condition, increase awareness, and ultimately reduce the incidence of BOAS.

The RFGS is in the infancy stage in North America. The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) has licensed the RFGS for use in the U.S. and Canada. Responsible breeders can use this and a myriad of other health screenings for their breed, to make discriminative decisions in their breeding program.

The RFGS program launched at the Rose City Classic dog shows on January 20 and 21, in Portland, Oregon, with 60 dogs tested. Present were

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representatives from the OFA, AKC, Bulldog Club of America, French Bull Dog Club of America, and the Pug Dog Club of America, and 60 dogs were tested at the event. In November 2023, the French Bulldog Club of America held a BOAS clinic at the breed’s national specialty, and 41 dogs participated.

According to the OFA website, the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme assigns a sliding scale of 0 to 3 to objectively diagnose BOAS:

Grade 0: The dog is clinically unaffected.

Grade I: The dog is clinically unaffected, but does have mild signs (only heard with a stethoscope)

Grade II: The dog is clinically affected and has moderate respiratory signs of BOAS (noise heard without a stethoscope).

Grade III: The dog is clinically affected and has severe signs of BOAS (noise heard without a stethoscope).

Because this is a new and innovative approach

to screening, so far there are a limited number of clinicians currently trained to perform the evaluation. This link explains BOAS testing, and at the bottom of the webpage, it gives a list of veterinarians who can perform the BOAS testing:

<https://ofa.org/diseases/rfgs/>

—Nicole Denny,
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[French Bull Dog Club of America](#)

Keeshonden

BREED HEALTH AND RESEARCH UPDATES

Following are several news items relating to Keeshond health and research.

Adult Onset Alopecia

From Acting Director Dr. Martin (Marty) Katz, Missouri University Canine Molecular Genetics Laboratory:

“Keeshonden, along with other Arctic breeds may be afflicted with adult-onset alopecia. This appears in

the adult dog, sometimes as early as two years, with bilateral symmetrical hair loss on the rear thighs and pants, usually with hyperpigmentation (black skin). In some dogs the hair loss progresses to the body, starting with bilateral hair loss on the shoulders. It can progress further, leaving the dog with coat only on the head, tail, and legs. The reason it was first known in Kees as ‘black skin disease,’ and later as just ‘the disease,’ was due to the appearance of hyperpigmentation, or black skin. The syndrome also affects Alaskan Malamutes, where it is known as ‘coat funk,’ and Pomeranians, where the puppies are exceptionally coated and when they change to adult coat may develop black skin and a bi-lateral pattern of hair loss that never returns.

“Treatments such as administering melatonin and spay/neuter may resolve the symptoms temporarily, and in some cases permanently. Dr. Johnson’s laboratory has developed

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Dr. Gary Johnson, founder of the Canine Molecular Genetic Laboratory at the University of Missouri

sample databases in several breeds that suffer from this syndrome. The largest database is in Pomeranians. His working hypothesis was that Keeshonden and Pomeranians probably had a similar genetic origin and expression of the syndrome. He and his colleagues and have been working collaboratively with other researchers for over twenty years. Progress has been slow in this research area, but with the advent of more powerful data analytics, the team at the CMGL at Missouri University is hopeful that research will advance more quickly in

the future. Samples from affected dogs and their families are always welcome. For more information, to contribute to ongoing research, or to send samples of affected dogs please contact Liz Hansen, at HansenL@missouri.edu.

Tribute to Dr. Gary Johnson, Director of Canine Molecular Genetics Laboratory

“Dr. Gary Johnson, the founder of the Canine Molecular Genetic Laboratory at the University of Missouri, was a friend to many, a mentor to those in his profession and world renowned for his research in

canine genetics. In his career he pioneered the use of cutting-edge techniques to identify mutations responsible for the numerous hereditary diseases in dogs. Working in genetic diseases in cattle, and primarily in dogs, he developed over 40 genetic tests.

“For every pup born without a risk of degenerative myelopathy, or every Basenji who is safe from Fanconi syndrome, or terrier who won’t suffer from primary lens luxation, or the many breeds with hereditary ataxia, or the Kerry Blues and Cresteds that no longer worry about juvenile Parkinsonism, and so many more ... you may not have known it, but Gary Johnson probably made your life with a dog better. We will miss him.” —Liz Hansen, Project Director of CMGL at University of Missouri, Standard Schnauzer breeder, and longtime colleague.

Dr. Johnson was a friend and colleague of mine for many years. He took the

COURTESY DEBORAH LYNCH



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time to patiently educate me in the workings of molecular genetics, He was never too busy to take the time to answer a question. I will miss the warmth in his voice when he answered my call and our conversations about all things dogs and science, and occasionally his daughter's ragtime music. Gary was modest and unassuming, and behind that humble exterior was a fierce intellect and relentless dedication and curiosity. It did not surprise me at all that he never retired, or that he asked for his laptop computer so he could work from the hospital.

Many of his other discoveries have provided insights into the mechanisms underlying diseases that will guide the development of effective therapeutic interventions in both dogs and people. In 2023 Dr. Johnson was recognized for his lifetime contributions to the health of dogs with the 2023 Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award from the American Kennel Club Canine Health

Foundation.

Continuation of Dr. Johnson's work has been assured when in November 2022 the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) made a \$1.5 million gift to the University of Missouri to help fund a new director of the Canine Genetic Diseases Laboratory in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. The Acting Director of the lab is Dr. Martin (Marty) Katz. The gift from OFA established the Dr. E.A. (Al) Corley OFA Endowed Program in Canine Molecular Genetics, which will help fulfill Dr. Johnson's wish that the lab's impactful work will continue. Donations in his memory may be made to the Dr. Gary Johnson Memorial Fund for Canine Genetic Diseases Research, at www.giving.missouri.edu.

Primary hyperparathyroidism

In the 1970s and '80s it became increasingly apparent that Keeshonden were suffering from a disease

called PHPT, primary hyperparathyroidism. The disease caused dogs to become progressively ill, and the only treatment was surgery on the parathyroid gland. There are four parathyroid glands in the dog, and some dogs underwent multiple surgeries as their glands became progressively affected. If the disease continues and all parathyroid glands must be removed, the dog is dependent on medication and has a poor prognosis.

Eventually a genetic test was developed for the disease by Dr. Richard Goldstein at Cornell University. This was a direct gene test and identified dogs that had the dominant gene and therefore were or in most cases would become affected by PHPT.

Breeders used this test widely, and in a few years dogs in the tested population were free of the disease and affected dogs became rare. There were reports of dogs who tested positive and lived to an advanced



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age (10–14 years) who never developed the disease, also known as a false positive. Subsequent to the development of the test, Dr. Goldstien left Cornell, and the PHPT test was never published.

Fast-forward to 2024, 16 years after the development of the original test, and the test has still not been published. However, research on the genetics of PHPT has been undertaken by the Canine Genetic Research Laboratory at Cambridge University in the U.K. The research has been ongoing, and one set of potential candidate genes has been eliminated. New samples have had to be gathered since none of the original samples from Cornell have been made available. The total of affected samples at Cambridge is 16—all from dogs in the U.K., except for one from a dog in the U.S.

The samples at Cornell are inaccessible, and messages regarding them from current researchers remain unanswered.

Reasons to pursue the development of a PHPT test that will be published are the following:

1. Validation—The way that research is validated is through the publication process which gives other scientists and laboratories the opportunity to duplicate the test. This proves that the test can be replicated with the same results.

2. Price—The opportunity for multiple labs to offer the test also works to keep prices competitive.

3. Accessibility—The PHPT test currently being performed by Cornell requires a fresh blood sample.

This makes the test expensive and difficult for dogs from Europe and those not located in North America.

4. Certification—European countries are increasingly developing certification standards for canine genetic testing. Tests that have not been published and thereby subjected to replication and validation, will likely not qualify for certification.

To contribute samples of affected dogs from the U.S. or Canada, or to make a donation to this research, please contact Dr. Cathryn Mellersh at Cathryn@canine-genetics.org.uk

—Debbie Lynch, Parrish, Florida, dlnpoconsult@gmail.com

[Keeshond Club of America](#)

Lhasa Apsos

THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY: A WINNING EXPERIENCE

The premier show event for any breed won't be seen on television. It's not an invitational or champions-only affair. But it's the event of most importance to any breed, its breeders, exhibitors, and fanciers: the national specialty.

The “national” is not just a competition with fancier rosettes, better trophies, and bigger bragging rights. While only one dog is awarded Best of Breed and two others, or perhaps four, major points, a national is different, because winning is

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defined in different ways.

Because of its large and diverse entry, the national provides a snapshot of the condition of the breed each year. Experienced breeders may observe subtle or overt changes in the entry as a whole and use those observations to make course-corrections to their breeding programs. One year it was apparent that efforts to control size were succeeding by comparing the size of the dogs in the Veterans class to those in the regular classes. Another year, a proliferation of questionable movement raised concerns about soundness. No other venue gathers enough specimens of the breed to provide insight into trends that affect the breed as a whole.

Drawing entries from throughout the nation, the national provides a check against regional myopia. It is fairly easy for the dogs in one geographic region to reflect the preferences of one or more active and influential breeders in that

area. This can lead to the mythical “types” of Lhasas. There is only Lhasa type. Regional styles reflect preferences within type. For example, Lhasas from one area might tend to be longer in body than those from another; size may differ from other regions; coat texture or certain colors might prevail. At a national spe-

cialty, we test our personal preferences against the current condition of the breed and whether they add to or detract from it.

Those seeking new breeding stock or wanting to further their knowledge and understanding of the breed have no better source than at the national specialty. In addition to seminars, master



Lhasa Apso

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

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breeders and other experts are available to share experience and insight. Take advantage of invaluable learning opportunities firsthand from some of the best Lhasa groomers and handlers in the country, plus the chance to participate at a high level in your breed.

Social benefits abound. Catching up with old friends and making new ones is a rich part of the experience.

This year the American Lhasa Apso Club national specialty will be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, October 21–25, at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center. In addition to the ALAC national specialty and the Futurity/Maturity, there will be two ALAC Eastern regional specialties, and independent specialties hosted by the Merrimack Lhasa Apso Club and the Central Maryland Lhasa Apso Fanciers. All events will include NOHS, and the Merrimack club will sponsor a sweepstakes.

Information about the

week's events is available at the parent club website, www.lhasaapso.org, and the superintendent's website, www.barayevents.com.

Attending the national isn't just for those who hope to win. The real value is in the experience, learning and sharing that happens best at the national. With breed numbers dwindling, it's important to help support this important event. Join us!

—Cassandra de la Rosa,

dlrcas@msn.com

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Poodles

This is the second of a multi-part series on whelping by guest author Madeline Patterson, who has granted permission to publish. (To read the first installment in the March 2024 issue, click [here](#).)

WHELPING PART TWO

Be sure to support the puppy and not let it dangle by the cord, as this could possibly cause an umbilical

hernia. Cut the cord at least a couple of inches long on the puppy, and once it is revived and breathing, put another hemostat on it, or tie it with dental floss if necessary. If tying with floss, I make a double loop and drop the cord through it and tie it close to the puppy's body. Once the cord has started to dry up, you can trim off the excess.

If the cord has broken during delivery, once the puppy is dry and breathing well and the cord has been tied off I will try to get out the retained placenta.

If you have left a hemostat on the cord going back into the bitch, pinch the cord as close to the vulva as possible with a piece of clean towel or paper towel, and keep a gentle pull on it. The placenta should slide out. If you lose it, it may come with the next puppy. I am not usually this lucky. The bitch may be able to get the placenta out herself, so watch her carefully. Some people allow the bitch to eat the placenta, while others do not.

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Miniature Poodle Ch. Tilo Plush (Tauskey photo)

This is a matter of personal preference.

Here's what I do if the bitch has been unable to get out the placenta: I wash my hands well, and then with my index and middle finger I feel up inside the vulva—about an inch in a Toy, further in a Mini or Standard. Don't use any lubricant except water, as things are pretty slippery already. I am feeling for a small thread of tissue or "string" that I can pinch between my fingertips and ease out with the placenta attached.

If you're unsuccessful,

don't worry; just keep track so that you can deal with it after delivery is over.

Hopefully the puppy has come out breathing and crying immediately.

As soon as the puppy is out I rub it vigorously with a towel, holding the head downward to assist the fluid to drain from the nose and lungs. Gently pinch the back of the neck. If the puppy has not started breathing at this point, use your bulb syringe to suction fluid from the nose and carefully from the back of the throat.

I always have a little bottle

of sweet liquor like Grand Marnier or Kahlua on hand. I dip the tip of my finger or a Q-Tip into it and swab the puppy's tongue. Often this will get them going. (Also good for celebrating when it's all over.)

Another trick I learned from an acupuncturist is to take a needle or straightpin, also sterilized, and barely put the tip in that little line that runs from the nostrils to the lips. (There's probably a name for that line, but I don't know it.) I have saved several puppies, especially C-section puppies, using this trick.

If your puppy is still not crying yet, you can do a gentle CPR by placing your thumb and index finger on the spine and under the chest—not on the sides of the rib cage—and do small, quick compressions.

Then suction again and repeat. If you have access to oxygen, this can be done with the puppy on its side and its nose against the oxygen source.

Keep checking the color

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of the puppy's gums. If they are pink, that's good. Just keep working. If it is pale or gray, you need to be a little more aggressive. It's not popular to swing puppies anymore, but I will still do it if I have been unable to revive the pup with any of these other methods. I would not recommend that you try this until someone has shown you how to do it properly without causing injury to the puppy.

Do not give up. I have seen puppies come around after 20 minutes or more.

Once the puppy is fairly dry and breathing naturally, and assuming Mom is between puppies, I will try to get him to nurse. Often that's just a matter of putting him near the milk.

If he doesn't grab right on, squeeze out a little milk and open the puppy's mouth by inserting the tip of your finger into the corner of the mouth and gently push it onto the nipple that you are holding flat—so the puppy looks like he's

like biting into a hamburger. Hold the puppy in place for a few seconds until he starts sucking.

Often a puppy nursing will stimulate the contractions again. When the next puppy is close to coming, I place the others in the box with the heating pad.

In my last article I mentioned using Calophyllum. I have found it to be helpful and supportive to the bitch during delivery. I'm not sure how it works, but I find that it gives the bitch a boost during labor. I begin giving it as soon as the first puppy is out, and I give it between puppies until the last one is born. I will give one, possibly two tiny pills at a time to a Toy, two or three to a Mini, and three or four to a Standard.

Another thing that seems to assist in delivery is a calcium injection. If you have a vet who will work with you, a sub-Q shot of Calfosan can be very helpful during a long or difficult delivery. I only use oxytocin injections as a last resort or after

the delivery is complete and there are still placentas unaccounted for. It should only be used under the strict supervision of your vet. Bad things can happen when used incorrectly.

It is very common for puppies to be born breech (feet-first). Sometimes it's actually easier to get out a "stuck" puppy because there is something to grab hold of.

If I see feet inside the sack, I will hold the puppy with a washcloth and try to ease it out, always pulling gently down in a curving motion between the bitch's legs. If you can't get a good grip, you can tear the sac and hold the legs with the cloth while you run your finger around the puppy just inside the vulva. Usually this will be enough to ease it out.

If most of the puppy is out but it is stuck by the head, support the whole puppy with the cloth, and again run your finger around the head inside the vulva. Or you can ease the head from the outside,



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between the pelvic bones—again, like doing anal glands, only wider—and help it out.

Anytime you are having to pull out a puppy either by feet or head, great care must be taken in order not to injure the puppy’s cervical spine. —M.P.

Thank you, Madeline.

(To continue in the September 2024 issue.)

[Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

PROPER SCHIPPERKE MOVEMENT

The AKC breed standard for the Schipperke says the following:

“Gait—Proper Schipperke movement is a smooth, well-coordinated and graceful trot (basically double tracking at a moderate speed), with a tendency to gradually converge toward the center of balance beneath the dog as speed increases. Front and rear must be in perfect balance with good reach in front and drive in the rear. The topline remains level or slightly

sloping downward from the shoulders to the rump. Viewed from the front, the elbows remain close to the body. The legs form a straight line from the shoulders through the elbows to the toes, with the feet pointing straight ahead. From the rear, the legs form a straight line from the hip through the hocks to the pads, with the feet pointing straight ahead.”

Let’s break down a bit of the verbiage in the Schipperke standard regarding movement and compare it to the breed’s structure and ideal body shape.

Proper Schipperke movement is a smooth, well-coordinated and graceful trot (basically double tracking at a moderate speed), with a tendency to gradually converge toward the center of balance beneath the dog as speed increases.

The Schipperke is a small thickset, cobby dog which is square in profile with well sprung ribs (modified oval). Consider a dog of this description working as

a ratter on barges, and how having a double-tracking gait would help them maintain balance when the vessel is in motion.

Thought must be taken not to confuse the use of the word *basically* to diminish the importance of the otherwise clear explanation of what is expected from Schipperke movement:

Viewed from the front, the elbows remain close to the body. The legs form a straight line from the shoulders through the elbows to the toes, with the feet pointing straight ahead. From the rear, the legs form a straight line from the hip through the hocks to the pads, with the feet pointing straight ahead.

Dogs that are not exhibiting this type of “clean” movement are deviating from the standard. The standard clearly states that the legs should move in a straight line. This does not allow for any excess movement in the feet, pasterns, elbows, shoulders, hips, or hocks. Flipping or paddling in the front or hockiness in

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From the Schipperke's AKC breed standard: "Proper Schipperke movement is a smooth, well coordinated and graceful trot (basically double tracking at a moderate speed), with a tendency to gradually converge toward the center of balance beneath the dog as speed increases. ... Viewed from the front, the elbows remain close to the body. The legs form a straight line from the shoulders through the elbows to the toes, with the feet pointing straight ahead."

the rear is not efficient and should not be considered acceptable movement, as it clearly is not provided for in the standard and often is caused by some structural fault or imbalance. Movement that is too wide (in the front or rear, or both) is as undesirable as a dog who has any extra movement, as it would not allow for the *tendency to converge as speed increases*.

We are losing this distinct and specifically described movement in our breed.

Front and rear must be in perfect balance with good reach in front and drive in the rear. The topline remains level or slightly sloping downward from the shoulders to the rump.

With form dictating function, again the Schipperke is a thickset and cobby dog which holds its silhouette while moving and viewed from the side as described by the level or slightly sloping topline. This body type would suggest that side gait should be balanced and efficient, with "good" but



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not extreme reach and drive as seen in breeds where they drop their head and lengthen their body to cover more ground efficiently and at a quicker pace.

In conclusion, it is important to keep in mind the ideal body shape of the Schipperke when evaluating movement: *Smooth, well-coordinated and graceful trot where front and rear must be in perfect balance while basically double tracking at a moderate speed.*

Excerpts are from the Schipperke Club of America standard as approved in 1993.

—Kristin Morrison, SCA
Judges' Education Chair
[Schipperke Club of America](#)

Shiba Inu

FLYING WITH YOUR SHIBA INU

I was in the process of writing on another topic when I changed gears after being asked by many what my process is to fly a Shiba Inu on domestic airline flights. Until I move, the

only mode of transport for my crew is by air.

I'm happy to share the knowledge and tips I have picked up over the years to help make your future air travel comfortable, knowing your family member is in good hands.

These tips are in addition to your Shiba already being comfortable in a secure crate at home or while in a vehicle.

To help talk "airline language" with an agent, there are key terms to know when you book your Shiba on your ticket:

"In cabin": your Shiba will be with you in the seating area in either a soft or hard crate under the seat in front of you.

"In hold": Your Shiba will be in a pressurized compartment in the belly of the aircraft.

It's important for you to know if the airline you choose will accept dogs in the cabin or in the hold, and the size of the aircraft is important. A specific number of spaces are dedicated to dogs flying in both areas

on a Boeing 700, as compared to an Embraer 175; the dimensions of the airline-approved kennel make all the difference.

You will want to book your flight and dog(s) early. Airlines have strict temperature limits for the safety of your pet. It's important to familiarize yourself with these. I generally fly in the late evening and early morning, as this generally helps ensure safer temperatures.

Savvy-traveler tip: If booking online, call the reservation desk to confirm dog space before you purchase the ticket. This saves time and any change fees; and once you have a confirmation code you can immediately book your dogs on the same call.

Here's my checklist to help you start with your Shiba's travel:

A small binder that contains a health certificate from your vet and a copy of current vaccine records.

Food and water bowl in the kennel. For long flights I will put a small amount of

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Shiba Inu

water in the bowl and freeze it beforehand. (I always tell TSA if there is water or ice in the bowl.)

Kennel requirements for each airline can be found on their website, and an agent can help over the phone.

Get familiar with the airport before you fly. If there will be a layover, find out where you will need to retrieve and recheck your Shiba.

Airport Pet Relief locations inside or outside can

generally be found ahead of time at the airport website.

Releasable zip-ties. Many airlines now require the kennel door to be secured after TSA screening.

Carry-on items can consist of leash, collar, dog food, wet wipes, light extra bedding (or in checked bag), and bottled water (which will need to be purchased after TSA screening).

Always relieve your Shiba before going through the airport, and have a doggy bag just in case.

Give yourself extra time to check in your dog and bags, and for the kennel to go through TSA screening.

Make sure you receive your card from the agent that shows your Shiba is on the plane (if your dog is checked in the hold, and if the airlines offer this).

Always look at bag tags going on the kennel and on your bags to ensure the correct airport is listed. (I wouldn't give this tip if I haven't experienced it myself.)

With long, cross-country

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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flights, in preparation for travel I will put electrolytes in the dog's water one to two days before the trip. Consult with your vet first.

As you prepare and become more comfortable with flying your Shiba, you will come up with your own checklist and tips that work for you. Have a safe and smooth flight!

—Letty Hughes,
lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com
National Shiba Club of America

Tibetan Spaniels

Our guest columnist this month is Maryanne Dell, TSCA Rescue national advisor.

SAVING TIBBIES IN NEED

After losing her Tibetan Spaniel Bristol in 2022, Stephanie Hart knew that only another of these funny, feisty, smart little dogs would do.

With three other Tibetan Spaniels, all boys, she desperately wanted a girl to round out her Tibbie family.

At No. 127 of the 201 AKC-recognized breeds, Tibetan Spaniels are uncommon. So Stephanie joined the hundreds of other hopefuls on the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America Rescue list, waiting to be paired with a Tibbie in need of a good home.

Soon after Stephanie lost Bristol, a former breeder in southern California contacted TSCA Rescue's national coordinator about rehoming eight of her Tibbies. Although not a TSCA member, the breeder knew TSCA Rescue could find better homes than she and her ailing husband could. One of the "Cali 8," as we called them, was Blossom, an 11-month-old black-and-tan Tibbie.

When Stephanie saw the Cali 8 photos, she knew she'd found her little girl. Only 11 days after arriving at our foster home, Lena Joy, formerly Blossom, had been vetted and was flying with a pet-nanny to meet her new mom in Minnesota.

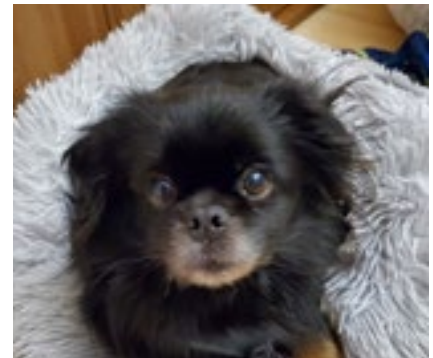
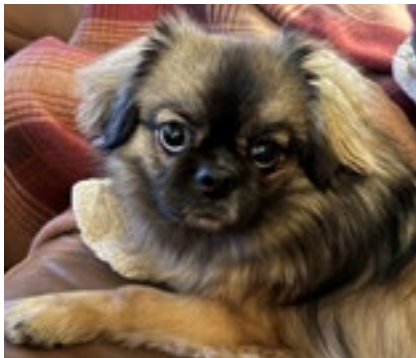
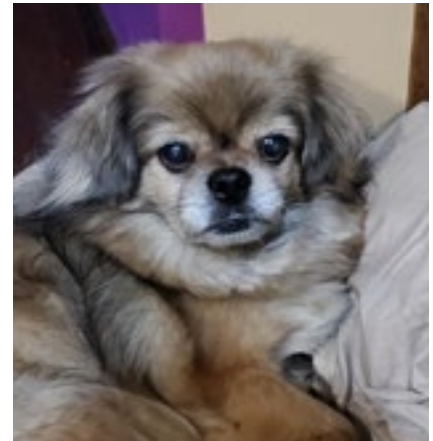
Like Lena Joy, most Tibbies needing TSCA

Rescue's help come from owners who are no longer able to care for them. Others wind up in shelters or private rescues, most of which have never encountered a Tibbie. Besides helping owners who can't keep their Tibbies, our volunteers are on the lookout for Tibbies, often misidentified as other breeds or mixes, in shelters or other rescues, and help these rescues reach prospective Tibbie adopters.

The waiting list of prospective adopters that Stephanie joined is only one part of the network that TSCA Rescue National Coordinator Susan Waller Miccio oversees to find, care for, and place Tibbies in loving homes. Well known in the Tibbie world, Susan wrote the classic breed book, *Gift From the Roof of the World*, and loves all things Tibetan Spaniel. When she stepped into the national coordinator role in 2015 after three years of volunteering, she began work to standardize and document procedures and recruit

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Stephanie and Lena Joy, a “meant to be” match; Nima and Tashi’s Tibbie-loving mom flew halfway across the country to adopt them, then drove home with them; rescued Tibbies Oscar, Timmy, Wally, Tori, and Buttercup were all placed in loving homes in 2022 and 2023. For more photos of rescue Tibbies, see <https://tstrust.org/>.

volunteers. Today, our volunteer regional coordinators, aka the “Aunties,” are collaborating to expand and

improve TSCA Rescue’s outreach and services to benefit both Tibbies and adopters nationwide.

Founded in 2006, the nonprofit TSCA Rescue & Health Trust funds Tibbie rescue, health research,

COURTESY OWNERS / TSCA RESCUE & HEALTH TRUST



BREED COLUMNS

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and education. As Susan explains the relationship, “The Trust pays the bills, and our network of regional coordinators and volunteers are the ‘boots on the ground.’”

Before we can take in a dog, we need the Trust’s approval to financially support it. The dog must be—or believed to be—a purebred Tibbie. Without papers, this ID can be difficult. Tibbies share genetic makeup with other small Asian breeds such as the Pekingese and Shih Tzu, and mixes of these and others often resemble Tibbies. We scrutinize the dog’s appearance for Tibbie traits such as hare feet and almond-shaped eyes, versus non-Tibbie traits such as flat faces with wrinkles.

Once approved as a Tibbie, the dog needs a foster home. Building a reliable foster network nationwide is an ongoing, critical task. Regional coordinators collaborate with fosterers to ensure the Tibbies receive the veterinary care they

need. They also rely on fosterers to get to know their Tibbies and weigh in on the best home for them.

Meanwhile, the search for a home begins. We send an email alert to prospective adopters on the waiting list in the appropriate state(s). If an adoption application isn’t on file, would-be adopters are asked to submit one. The regional coordinator then contacts applicants who appear to be good matches “on paper.” Personal and veterinary references are checked. We conduct a home visit—in-person or virtual—focusing on Tibbie-specific safety, and counsel on any corrective measures needed. For example, as Tibbies are fearless climbers and notorious escape artists, the home is inspected for ways they could get over, under, or through a fence.

When an adoption is finalized, adopters are usually happy to travel for their Tibbies. Nima and Tashi were left homeless

when their owner died, and their new owner flew to California, rented a car, and drove them home to Minnesota. A Florida adopter flew round-trip to Chicago to pick up 14-year-old Punch. Annie’s foster mom flew her from California to her adopters in New York City. A Missouri adopter drove to Colorado to meet a volunteer transporting Mollie from Oregon. And Lolha’s adopter brought her from Los Angeles to her new home in Hawaii.

A month after landing in Minnesota, Lena Joy celebrated her first birthday. Stephanie wrote, “Happy birthday to my beautiful girl. I’m so lucky you joined our family. You are loved beyond measure.”

MTB (“meant to be”) homes like Stephanie’s are why we “Aunties” work so hard for Tibbies. —M.D.

Thank you, Maryanne.

—Allan Reznik,

reznikallan@gmail.com

[Tibetan Spaniel Club of America](#)



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Tibetan Terriers

ON THE ROAD AGAIN ... OR NOT!

It's that time of year again—vacation time! Your travel plans are in the works for your next adventure (or maybe your trip to the Tibetan Terrier national specialty, in Colorado in September!).

But one gigantic decision lingers: *What do we do with the dogs while we're gone?*

As any Tibetan Terrier owner will tell you, these “little people” are a tough sell when it comes to leaving them out of your plans. And rightly so. Tibetan Terriers are true masters at making their owners feel “abusive” if they are left behind and are well-known for their epic “stinkeye” looks when it comes to pouring on the guilt.

So now what? Should you board the dogs or find a pet-sitter to come to your home? I must admit that not many places are good enough for my TTs, and I am a “boarding kennel snob” because my hus-

band and I owned/operated a large boarding kennel (132 spaces on 32 acres) in southwest Ohio for 16 years. For that reason, I must be the pickiest person in the universe when it comes to the care of my two Tibetan Terriers—but I know I do not stand alone amongst all the dog lovers out there! So, here is my advice.

Let's start by acknowledging that your expectations are high because, let's face it, leaving your beloved dog under someone else's care is stressful.

My first and most important advice: Do your research before you need to make any decisions. The more comfortable you feel with your choice of care, the more relaxed both you and your dog will feel.

Let's assume that Option 1 is to make a reservation at a local boarding kennel. Before you book that spot, my number-one requirement is to visit the facility and talk to the staff. That will tell you volumes about the quality of care your dogs

will receive. Have your list of questions ready, but “seeing is believing”! Ask for a full tour of where your dog will stay and exercise. If the staff are reluctant to show all areas of the facility, or you need an appointment for the tour, turn around and run! That lack of transparency can often mean they have something to hide.

If you are satisfied with what you see, then start asking questions, lots of questions. There are five general areas:

1. Housing. Where will my dog be housed? How often are spaces cleaned? Can I bring my dog's bedding? Will my dog have private access to fresh water at all times? Will my dog see people throughout the day? What climate controls are in place? Is the air circulated and sanitized? What security measures are in place so my dog doesn't escape? Is there a staff member on site 24/7?

2. Exercise/breaks. Where and how often does my dog go for potty breaks? What plan is in place for

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breaks during inclement weather? Does my dog have a separate or shared area for exercise and breaks? If my dog is not social, does he or she get the same amount of break time as the dogs who go in playgroups? Are playgroups monitored by staff members? What is the earliest and latest time my dog is let out each day?

3. Feeding/Medication.

Can I bring my dog's own food? How often is my dog fed? What plan is in place if my dog does not eat? What measures are taken to ensure that my dog gets the proper medication and dosage? Are medications kept in a secure location?

4. Staff qualifications/training. What training is in place and/or required for the staff? What is the staff-to-dog ratio? How does the staff handle a stressed or anxious dog?

5. Emergency plans.

There are two aspects to this:

—*For your dog's health:*

Is the entire staff trained in emergency first aid and



Tibetan Terrier

canine CPR? Is there a veterinarian on call? Is the facility able to safely transport my dog in case immediate emergency veterinary care is needed?

—*For unexpected emergency situations:* Is there a plan in place for the safe exit of the animals being housed at the kennel in the unlikely event of a fire or weather emergency?

These are a few of the many questions you need to ask, so take some time to add to this list. You will also need to ask about the vaccination requirements for boarding, and how the kennel communicates with you about any issues they might be having with your dog while under their care.

So, after all your research,



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perhaps you have decided that your dogs will do better with an in-home pet-sitter. Sounds like a perfect solution, right? The dogs stay in their own home, and a loving pet-sitter spends hours at their beck and call. Well ... once again, do your research and ask a lot of questions!

Recently I needed to make arrangements for my dogs in a hurry. I have yet to find a kennel that meets all my requirements (remember, I'm a kennel snob), so I enlisted the services of a recommended pet sitter in the area. Bad idea. When he came over to meet the dogs, the first red flag for me was that my girl was terrified of him, and he did nothing to change that. But I was desperate, and it was only for a few days, so I hired the sitter. He assured me that he stayed around 30 minutes on each visit so the dogs could be outside for fresh air and exercise. I told him we had security cameras and that I could check on the dogs (and him) any time. Even with that

knowledge, the longest time he ever spent at my house was eight minutes—which included letting the dogs out, meal prep, feeding, and clean-up. Yes, eight minutes. For \$35 each visit. The dogs survived, but I was a train wreck worrying about them.

Regardless of the circumstances, the needs of your dogs, or the options available to you, each dog owner needs to have a plan in place for the expected and unexpected times when the dogs just can't come along. It's a tough call (and probably more stressful for dog owners than for our dogs), but a little research and time investigating those options will put you and your dogs at ease when the time comes.

Author's note: To be honest, my Tibetan Terriers are convinced that I bought an RV just so they could come along—and I'm certain they are right!

—Janet Krynzel,
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Tibetan Terrier Club of
America

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Bearded Collies

EENY, MEENY, MINEY, MO ...

“How can the judge pick a winner when all the dogs look alike?” That's a question sometimes heard ringside at dog shows, particularly when the entries all sport the same-color coats. Another familiar phrase: “Why did the judge put up that dog when the one in front of him has better tail carriage?” (Or better ear-set, or better topline, or better muzzle, or ...)

Ever since the advent of judging, ringsiders and exhibitors have wondered what thought processes course through a judge's mind when selecting winners. The catch is that The Perfect Dog has yet to be produced, so it's up to the judge to weigh virtues and faults on each entry. To further complicate matters, many judges consider some faults as “unforgivable,” no matter how excellent the rest of the dog might be.

You're going to be the judge today, so let's start with the standard—the

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description of the ideal adult dog of your breed. Some standards are very detailed, while others are less informative than the average postage stamp. Some standards grade faults as “minor” or “major.” The Bearded Collie standard lets the judge decide. A judge should be well acquainted with the standard, and it’s no disgrace to have a copy at hand in case some question pops to mind.

Your assignment (should you choose to accept it) is the Open Bitch class, which is populated by three very respectable Bearded Collie girls. The first is a striking black with typical white markings. She has dark brown eyes and a scissors bite, plus a balanced muzzle and skull. The chest is a bit narrow but of good depth. There’s a slight dip to the topline. On the move, she raises her front paws higher than necessary, but her rear is well angulated and supplies lots of drive. She backs off a bit when you first approach her but then allows you to go



Bearded Collie

over her without protesting. Her coat is shiny and on the coarse side.

Next in line is a pretty blue bitch whose tail starts happily wagging as you approach her. She’s strongly built but decidedly feminine. Her gray eyes tone nicely with her coat, and they’re set well apart, giving her a joyous expression. There are a few places on her lips where the pigmentation is not complete. Her bite is scissors. Her coat is thick and a little silky. On the move, her paws seem to skim the ground, and she cov-

ers the maximum amount of ground with effortless movement. Her topline is level, and she carries her tail somewhat higher than her topline.

An attractive brown girl rounds out the trio. She is the smallest of the three, at 19 inches. Her expressive ears are set level with her milk-chocolate eyes. Her head is well balanced with the muzzle and skull equal in length. As you check the bite you notice one of her molars is missing. The depth of her chest descends to her elbow and is of a



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hand's width. Her topline shows a slight rise over the loin. As you walk up to examine her, she assumes a show stack and holds it while you go over her, her eyes focused on her handler (and the bait). As she gaits, her rear assembly shows exceptional drive, while her front paws flip upward. Her flowing, red-brown coat swirls around her legs as she moves. She carries her tail low with an upward tip at the end.

So there's your entry. How will you place them? What criteria will you use to make your selection? The late, great Anne Rogers Clark remarked that she looked at type first because without type, you don't have a breed. Other judges question whether the dog is constructed to do the job for which it was bred. Of course, your Beardie may never come closer to sheep than your wool slacks, but would her or she be capable if faced with a formidable flock?

Newcomers to judging

might find themselves trying to balance virtues and faults. Does the correct coat carry more value than a well-balanced head? Is a walleye considered more of a fault than a level bite?

Rather than picking an entry apart feature by feature, you might find it more rewarding to judge the dog as a whole entity. Do all the parts fit together correctly? *Balance* is a key word here. To some judges, certain features carry more weight in their estimation than others.

Many years ago another exhibitor and I duelled for wins with our bitches. One day, Barb commented that her dog was absolutely going to defeat my girl. She had had a brief conversation with the judge who was assigned to our breed in the upcoming show. "Is this the Beardie you're showing now?" the judge had asked. "She has superb rear-end angulation. She's bound to do well."

So Barb was brimming with great expectations for the upcoming show. It came as a shock to her when the

judge awarded Winners Bitch to my girl, leaving Barb holding the Reserve ribbon.

Before leaving the ring, Barb confronted the judge. Waving the RWB ribbon, she whined, "I thought you really liked her. You said she has excellent rear-end angulation!"

"Oh, she does," the judge answered, "but the other one has a much better front."

As a judge, how will you decide what attributes are most important? What will you forgive, and what will you award?

Based on the descriptions of those three bitches, how would you place them?

Don't bother to ask me. After all, you're the judge!

—Alice Bixler,

alice@bedlamkennels.com

Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

BELGIAN HEIGHT: A PERFECTLY NORMAL SUBJECT

In the March 2024 GAZETTE (to see the column, click [here](#)), I



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introduced the subject of substance in our Belgian shepherd breeds. I presented the available information on height and weight from the AKC and FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale) standards. With this column, I will begin to share the data that I collected.

Let's start with a very basic metric: height. Measuring height seems simple enough. But "basic" does not mean "simple." There are a number of obvious potential sources of inaccuracy in height measurement. Since the data are generated remotely, I must trust that these errors will either be (a) minor, or (b) obvious enough that I notice an anomaly and ask for re-measurement.

Figure 1 shows height results for 58 female and 37 male Belgians of all types combined. Since all four breeds have the same desired height ranges, it is reasonable to combine them.

The chart shows the cumulative percentage of dogs at or below each height

point. The cross-hatched areas indicate that 11–15% of the measured dogs were outside the desired height range. The average height of both males and females is at the approximate middle of their respective ranges.

And what about the Malinois, specifically? Figure 2 shows data from 19 females and 15 males. This small sample can still illustrate some points. The average female was 22.5 inches tall (a bit small), and more than 25% of the females were under 22 inches. The average male was 24.7 inches tall, with about 7% out on either end of the standard.

Using the middle of the height standard as the "ideal average," I calculated an "ideal height curve" that corresponds to a normal distribution with 1% of dogs below the disqualifying minimum height and 1% above the disqualifying maximum. The "ideal" curves are shown as dashed lines in Figure 2. If we measured many more Malinois,

the data should follow this curve, if Malinois really do have an average height of 23 (25) inches, and really do have an amount of variability that results in 1% DQ high and low.

In my sample, the actual data for female Malinois, especially, ran a bit smaller than expected (the curve is shifted left compared to ideal). It is likely that working-line Malinois are under-sampled here, and their inclusion might bring the size up but potentially result in more heights over the upper limit. There is always a danger in looking at data from small samples that are not carefully randomized.

Although it's none of my business, really, I made analogous plots for the Belgian Tervuren and the Belgian Sheepdog. In Figure 3, we see the effect of the Tervuren's asymmetric disqualifying heights, which allow more leeway for small dogs than for tall ones. To meet this unbalanced tolerance, either the variability must be smaller

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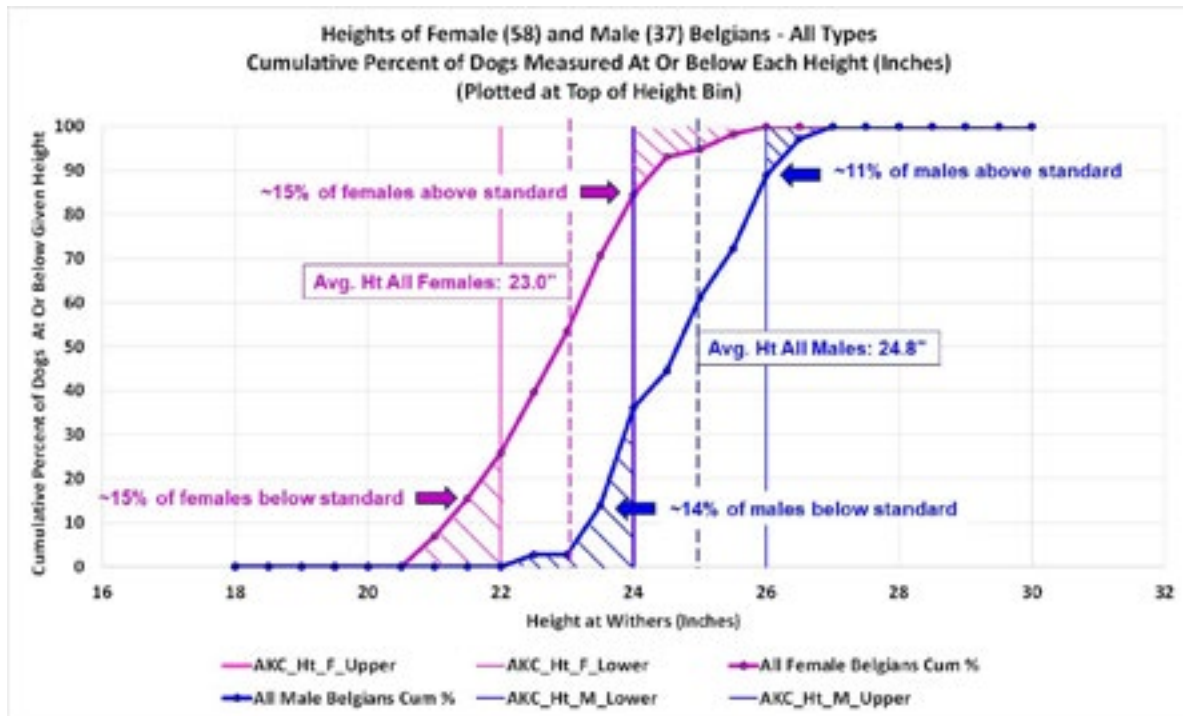


Figure 1: Cumulative height distribution of a sample of male and female Belgians (Source for this and following graphs: owner-submitted height measurements of individual dogs in response to 2024 survey.)

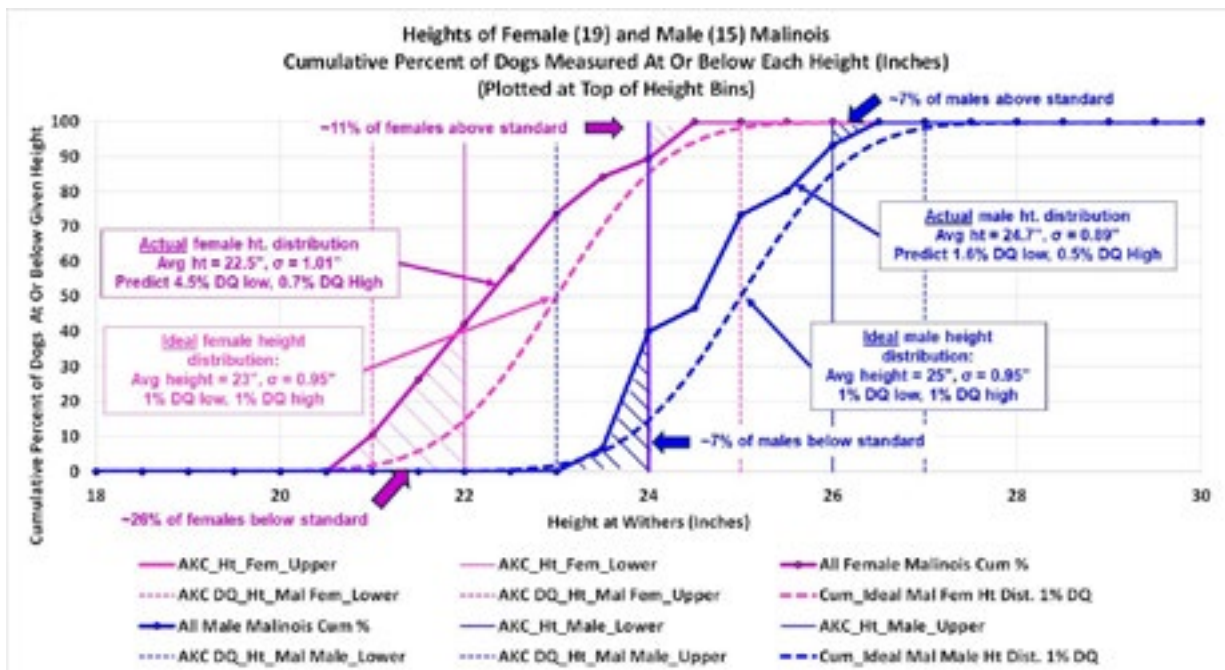


Figure 2: Cumulative height distribution of male and female Belgian Malinois

CARILEE MORAN

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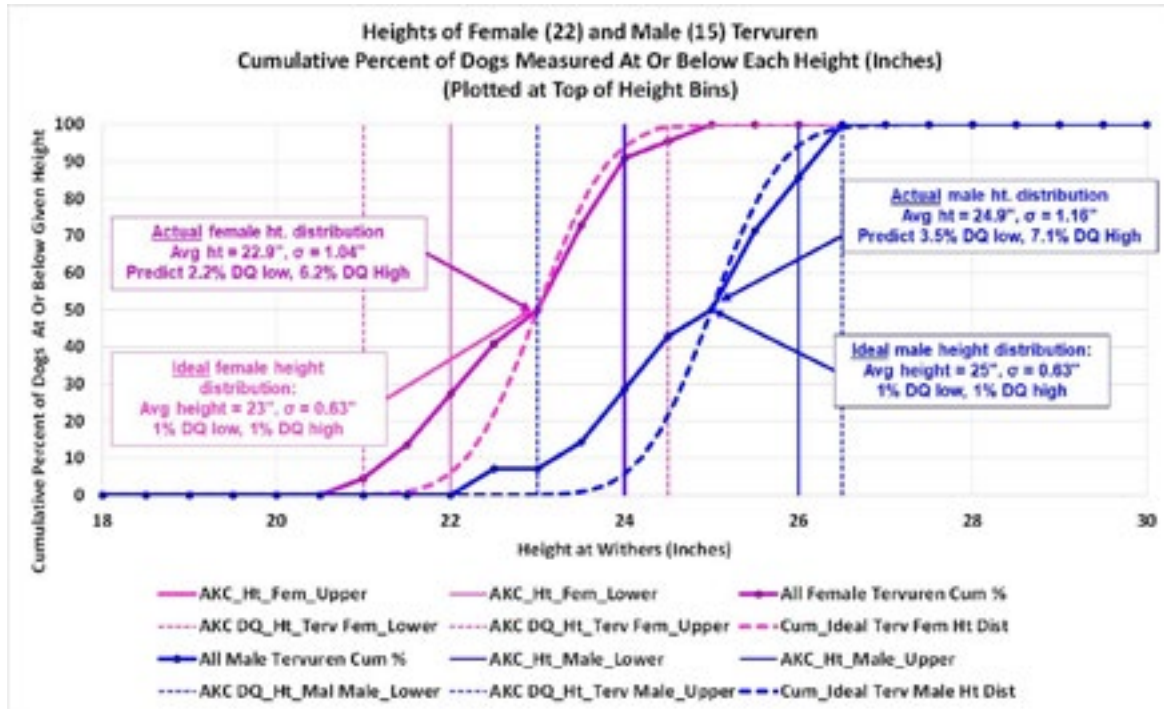


Figure 3: Cumulative height distribution of male and female Belgian Tervuren

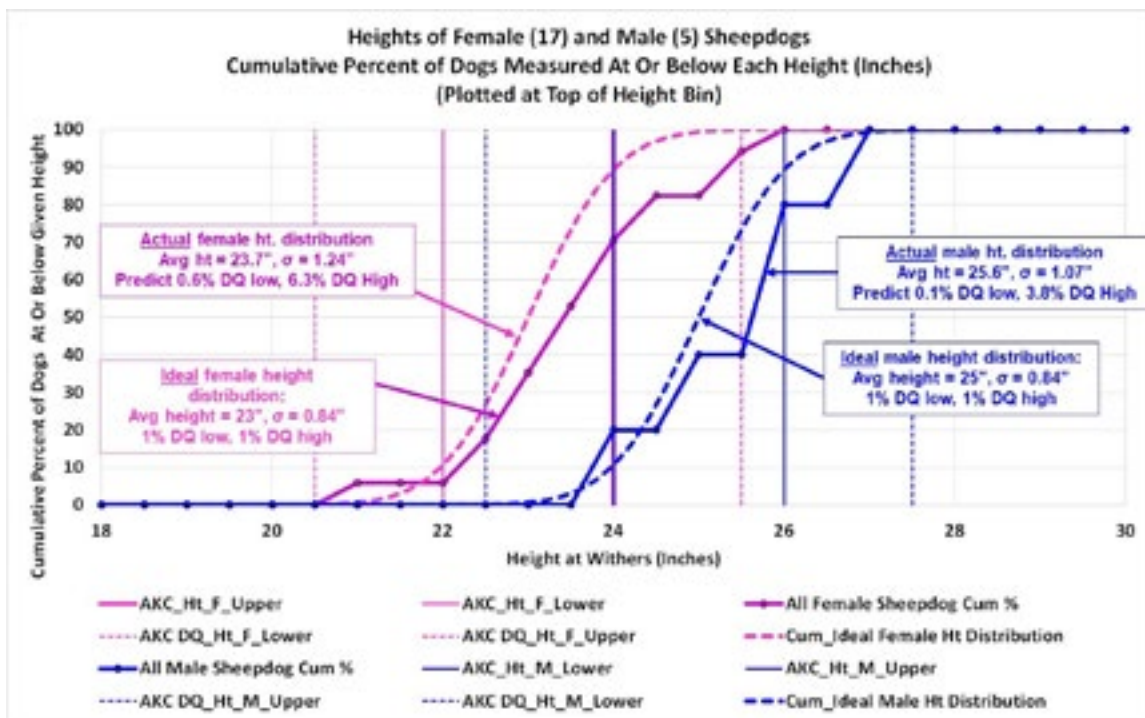


Figure 4: Cumulative height distribution of male and female Belgian Sheepdogs

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Four Belgians, all female: two Belgian Sheepdogs (6-year-old NV, 24 7/8 inches, and 9-year-old Havana, 23 inches), and two Tervuren (2-year-old Blake, 23 3/4 inches, and 7-year-old Ohana, 22 inches).



Left: Three-year-old Tervuren littermates at the bottom of the Terv female range and the top of the Terv male range—(L-R) female Kaiya, 21.25 inches tall; male Kash, 26 inches tall. Right: Three Malinois (L-R): Joules (female), 22 3/4 inches; Reacher (male), 25 3/4 inches; Porter (male), 26 3/4 inches.

(it is not), or the overall size range must shift down (it is shifted). In general, a symmetric tolerance makes more sense for a feature that

follows a normal distribution. Perhaps the parent club was trying to correct persistent oversize by its choice of disqualifying heights. The

Tervuren club has more data on breed size from measuring days it has held. [Ed. note: For more information, see the *Belgian Tervuren*

COURTESY KAREN ERZEN / REBECCA GRINSELL / DAWN THOMAS



HERDING GROUP

column in this issue.]

The Belgian Sheepdog (Figure 4) has the most generous gap between height guidelines and disqualifications. My overall impression is that size variability in Belgian Sheepdogs takes full advantage of the large available height range.

OK, so what?

First, as an indication of Malinois substance, comparison of my sample to the height standards suggests a bit of a bias to the small side.

Second, there are no laws about the size of Belgians except the ones that breeders make for themselves via the national breed club. It is not for me to judge the choices of breeders who emphasize smaller dogs for agility competition or larger dogs for some other purpose. Dog breeds were created and have been either maintained or altered to suit human needs for thousands of years, and we are now the stewards of that continuity or change. We should only ask that the guidelines we

set make sense. In my view, the Malinois height standard meets that goal.

Next time, we will explore weight as an indication of substance, taking height and body condition into account. There's still time for you to participate! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/BelgMeas> for instructions on how to provide your Belgian's measurements. Email me if the link doesn't work for you.

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,
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American Belgian
Malinois Club

Belgian Sheepdogs

MOTIVATED TO TRAIN

Have you ever watched an agility run that was so perfect that you couldn't take your eyes off the team? How about a herding trial run so smooth it appeared truly effortless? Or maybe an obedience run so beautiful it looked like dancing? You think to yourself in jealous amazement, "How do they do it?"

Well, I'm willing to bet that

all of these things have one thing in common: a handler motivated to practice. They trained, and trained, and then trained a bit more. And sometimes training isn't all fun and games. Even when it should be. It's work, it takes time, and it takes the right mindset to make it happen.

But training should be fun. It should feel like games, like playing. Yes, for the dog, but for the handler as well. My mindset is that if I'm going to need to do this to reach our goals, it should be fun for everyone.

Our human egos want perfection, to be successful. And when we're not, it tends to show in less than attractive ways, especially to our Belgian Sheepdogs. They're a very intuitive breed, and most I've owned have a strong sense of right and wrong, as well as a healthy work ethic. They just know!

They catch our vibe the second it starts. This can make them feel unsure and hesitant, which often has them acting worried—whether it be for us,

HERDING GROUP



Belgian Sheepdog: Training should be fun for both dog and handler

or for themselves because of confusion.

Upbeat, positive training sessions that feel more like play tend to ease the nerves a bit. I know, it's hard! But training and practicing with an upbeat, playful manner can easily become a confidence-building

exercise in itself.

As adults it's often difficult for us to just loosen up and play. Sometimes it takes looking silly in front of our friends and fellow competitors. But it gets easier. When training feels like play, it generally feels easier. When something feels eas-

ier, it lends itself to feeling more competent—and when we feel more competent, we tend to feel more confidence. Feeling confident about a task lends itself to success. It's a virtuous circle!

This is the entire mindset that I have to put myself into when I train with my dogs. I'm busy, and sometimes I feel as if I have to bribe myself to train. Reward myself with a brownie for practicing 10 minutes of heelwork, for example. (Yes, I am food motivated!)

The trouble with this, though, is that putting a timeline on training occasionally turns it into a task needed to accomplish. Yes, you can have goals for your training sessions, but I try to stick with meeting small goals, rather than doing something for 10 minutes. I much prefer short, succinct sessions that are crystal clear versus doing something for a set time frame, such as several three- to five-minute sessions broken down over an afternoon. Waiting for a load of laundry to finish?

COURTESY SHELLY BROSNIAN AND NINAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



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Train! Commercial break during your favorite TV show? Stretch those legs and train for those three minutes.

A happy, thoughtful training session helps lend itself immensely to a happy, thoughtful Belgian. And, in turn, to a happy, thoughtful, and confident trainer.

—Shelly Brosnan,

3busydogs@gmail.com

[Belgian Sheepdog Club of America](#)

Belgian Tervuren

POUND FOR POUND: ASSESSING BREED WEIGHT AND SIZE

We all love poking around on Facebook to see what people are writing about. It can be quite entertaining. One topic I see frequently mentioned is Tervuren weight. It is easy to forget that a dog's height, age, and length are crucial in determining its optimal weight.

When you think of a 24-inch dog, we can forget sometimes what goes into calculating that number.

The post that instigated this article involved the owner of a 9-month-old male puppy who was concerned that he only weighed 35 pounds, and was he too small?

Even though the owner posted a photo of the pup, it was still difficult to tell how tall or long the dog was. Nine months is a tough age for a male puppy. They tend to be picky eaters at that age (because everything is so exciting in life, and they have to be ready for it), and they are non-stop active. So even if you get calories into them, they burn them as fast as they go in. If this was a smaller and lighter-boned male, 35 pounds would be fine at 9 months. If he were a tall or a heavy-boned boy, he would be a rack of bones.

The comments that came into this thread were quite interesting. Some were very helpful and reminded the poster about taking other things into account when trying to decide if your dog is too thin or not. One of the comments was from a person who had an 85-pound

male. If he was 24 inches, he would be fat; if he was 26½ inches, he would still be a little bit stocky. One must remember that the standard for males is 23½ to 26½ inches. But the possibility remains that the dog could be oversized or undersized as well, which is something that a picture cannot always tell you.

In 2006, a committee was formed to do a weigh-and-measure event at that year's national. Although this exercise was not what could be considered scientific, it was very helpful to get a snapshot of that point in time on a cross-section of dogs. I was lucky enough to be part of that event. So, I thought I would share some of the findings and give people an idea of averages for heights and weights on their Tervuren.

Remember, we have a slow-maturing breed; you will find that the girls will hit their mature height and weight sometime between 18 and 24 months, and the boys sometime between 3

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Belgian Tervuren: Height and age are two of the factors in determining optimal weight.

and 5 years. So, once again, take these conclusions with a grain of salt, and realize that we did not have scientific equipment on hand. It is easy enough to measure a dog's height but determining a dog's length is like measuring an earthworm. The head bends a little in one direction, and the spine moves, and the length is affected in measurements. We had an accurate scale available to us, so those numbers should be considered good.

We had a total of 82 dogs participating in this event. There were 43 males between the ages of 8

months and 13½ years. The median age was 5.3 years. The average height was 24.42 inches, and the average length was 24.3 in. The average weight was 56.4 pounds, with a range of 41 to 76 pounds.

There were 39 females, ranging in age from 10 months to 14 years. The median age was 5.5 years. The average height was 23 inches, and the average length was 22.8 inches. The average weight was 47.4 pounds, with a range of 36.6 to 56.4 pounds.

Our breed has a tendency to give the illusion of a

larger, more substantial dog, and those of you who own Tervuren know that when they are wet down, there's not a whole lot of dog under all that hair.

So don't be alarmed if your dog doesn't meet internet standards for height and weight; they probably are just right for their age and height. A good rule of thumb for a healthy weight is that you want to be able to feel your dog's ribs—not have to press to find the ribs, but just be able to feel them. We have an athletic breed; they shouldn't be a rack of bones, but they also

COURTESY DANA MACKONIS

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shouldn't be pudgy.

Since it's been 18 years since the weigh-and-measure clinic at the national, the club has chosen to host another weigh-and-measure at this year's national, which will be in Wilmington, Ohio, June 8–16. We will also be doing one in Montana next year, hoping to bring in a different demographic of dogs. It will be very interesting to see if anything has changed drastically in one direction or another.

I will be working at this event again, and I invite all of our readers to come and join us. Make your dog part of our statistics! You don't need to be a member of the club to do this.

Hope to see you all at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio, this month! For more information about the Belgian Tervuren national specialty, visit <https://www.abtnationalspecialty.org>.

—Dana Mackonis,
cachetnoir@yahoo.com
American Belgian
Tervuren Club

Briards

IF YOU'RE OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO JUDGE, DO IT

“Well, that puts a whole different perspective on things,” my friend commented as she emerged from the show ring. An experienced exhibitor, she had been asked to judge a match for the first time. It was that assignment which changed her outlook on judging. It might be a good idea if all exhibitors took a crack at judging after they've been involved in showing for a couple of years. As she observed, looking at dogs from the center of the ring is far different from being an exhibitor or watching from ringside.

It's easy to critique dogs from outside the ring and to wonder “How can she even consider a dog with that tail-set?” or “Can't he see those sickle hocks?” Ringsiders can't see a dog's bite, however, nor can they put their hands on a well-coated dog to feel the condition and construction under all that hair. That privilege is

reserved for the judge.

Judging for the first time can be a real learning experience. If the neophyte judge is observant, he or she will realize which dogs catch the eye right from the start. Why? Is it their appearance, their movement, their presentation, or their temperament which makes them stand out? It's something to keep in mind the next time the judge shows her own dogs.

How much does good or bad handling contribute to the dog's presentation? A good dog poorly stacked or shown in a lackadaisical manner loses a lot of appeal. The degree of training the dog has received may become apparent. The perceptive judge will file all this information away for future use as an exhibitor.

A first-time judge may know the standard scripture and verse, but when it comes time to apply it, that's when the fun starts. The standard describes the ideal dog of the breed, but the perfect dog doesn't exist. So



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Briard

judging becomes a matter of deciding which dog in the ring comes closest to that ideal image. It may be a case of balancing virtues and faults. Does this particular virtue outweigh that particular fault? Can quicksilver gait let you forgive a low ear-set?

Judges all have their own quirks. They may focus on a component part to the point where exhibitors recognize them as “headhunters,” “tooth fairies,” “movement judges,” or other designations. To be avoided at all costs is to be called a “fault judge”—someone who seeks

out the dog with the least number of faults. Never a good idea, as the dog with the fewest faults may not be the best dog—one with no serious faults, but no redeeming virtues, either.

Looking over a ring full of dogs for the first time is generally when judging newcomers begin to regard their priorities. If breeders, they may give high marks to superb shoulders or strong heads—perhaps characteristics they’ve endeavored to establish in their own lines. Eventually they decide what’s more important to their assessment.

So if you’re offered to opportunity to judge, take it. It may change your entire way of looking at showing.

—Alice Bixler, 2014

[Briard Club of America](#)

Canaan Dogs

WEATHER OR NOT, CANAAN DOGS DEAL WITH IT

The Canaan Dog’s principal historical point of origin is the Negev desert in Israel. In the late 1930s the Haganah, the Jewish paramilitary organization in what was then known as the British Mandate of Palestine, asked noted cynologist Dr. Rudolphina Menzel to develop a guardian/defense dog for them. Dr. Menzel found the typical European breeds unsuited for Israel’s climate and turned to the pariah dog used by nomadic tribes for millennia in the Negev desert, and she developed the Canaan Dog into a recognized breed.

Nowadays, when a Canaan Dog owner mentions the breed’s origins to

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Canaan Dog Smudge working in herding and rally

an interested person, the stereotypical image of a hot and dry climate comes to mind as the only environment suitable for the breed. The look of surprise on

the person's face can range from mild to full astonishment when the answer is that Canaans are located throughout Israel and subjected to various climates

from cold, to mild, to hot, depending on the season of the year and the region of the country. Canaans worldwide are basically from this desert stock that has been selected by natural forces to survive. It is these adaptive traits that owners of this unique dog must take in stride in daily life, especially those who exhibit their dogs in the breed or performance ring.

Wild-born desert Canaan Dogs are active mostly in the early morning and early evening hours when the temperature is cool and seek shelter from hot sun in underground dens or fissures in rocky or mountainous areas. However, domesticated Canaans must conform to their master's wishes and may have to be active during the heat of the day. Exhibitors who have classes during the middle of the day will often find their dogs not as energetic as they are during early morning classes, even with the modern benefit of indoor air-conditioning. This is

COURTESY DENISE GORDON



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especially true of outdoor shows and trials; no matter how rested and cool the dog may be, the Canaan's Circadian rhythm dictates that it's time to den and the person on the other end of the leash will need to work around that situation. One way to do so is to train during the heat of the day so the dog gets accustomed to moving when he'd rather sleep.

However, it is also true that during the hottest time of the day in summer, at least in the United States, an owner may find his Canaan Dog basking outside in the fenced yard in full sunlight for an hour or longer. This contradiction of climate-based behavior has led to many rousing discussions among Canaan Dog owners and fanciers.

Many non-Canaan Dog folk (and a few Canaan owners) are surprised to find that Canaans love the snow. While some owners still retain the typical desert image of hot and dry, it has snowed in des-

erts worldwide, including a measurable snowfall in the Negev in February 2015. It is therefore logical that Canaans of desert and more temperate climes have experienced the frosty phenomenon at one time or another. With Canaan breeders in snow prone countries such as Sweden, Norway, Canada, and the U.S., it's not uncommon to see photos of Canaans cavorting through snowy landscapes posted on Facebook or other social media. After all, Canaans are well-known to adapt to any environment. They simply deal with it.

Thanks to Norma Bennett Woolf for recommendations and insights for this column.
—Denise A. Gordon, 2017

[Canaan Dog Club of America](#)

Cardigan Welsh Corgis PREPOTENCY AND POPULAR SIRES

In my last column, I wrote about the popular sire and his potential impact on the

breed. As I said then, this impact may bring something special and needed to various Cardigan breeding programs. But possibly the dog does not complement the bitches in type (phenotype=physical), and/or genotype (the invisible DNA that directs traits and characteristics) and resultant puppies are not of quality.

As an example of a popular sire changing the physical look of some breeding programs, I'm going to use a dog I bred who is deceased, has no semen in storage, and spent his entire life in Europe.

Please note that I am not discounting what a bitch brings to a program. But I want to expand on the subject of popular sires.

At 16 weeks, I sent a tri boy to Finland to a knowledgeable Cardi owner. He finished his championship easily, though in Europe—as required by the FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale, which is like Europe's AKC)—a show dog must be awarded a

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major at age 2 or older to gain a championship. Upon finishing, this boy began to entertain the European ladies.

As litters began arriving and show pups matured enough for detailed evaluation (and as I followed along via photos from many European breeders taking a big chance on an unknown American import and pedigree), it became obvious that this sire was stamping his get. Certainly, litter quality was mixed, as it is in all countries including the U.S., but what became obvious was that the sire brought a certain type and style to a significant number of litters.

To my knowledge, only one of these bitches was 100-percent American. All others ranged from multiple European countries of long-established European pedigrees. Yet the “keeper” puppies bore a strong resemblance to their sire. Color didn’t matter. It was structure and breed type, and often also expression.

He finished his FCI cham-



Cardigan Welsh Corgi

pionship in 2010 and began siring litters. He retired from breeding duties at the age of 11. Early on in those nine years, he became an example of a “popular sire” that many were breeding to. But because he was an All-American Boy, and the ladies were chic Europeans in haute couture dresses, there was no genetic bottleneck over the first few generations. (But that was then, and this is now, and I can’t speak to whether there has been tight linebreeding on him in later years.)

“When a stud dog ‘throws himself’ to a marked degree and passes on his best traits

and characteristics to an unusually large number of his puppies that resemble one another more closely than is normal, he is said to be prepotent.” —*William Given*

Today, as I look at certain European youngsters many generations later, I still see echoes of my boy. In his case, “popular sire syndrome” fortunately led to quality litters. But none of the European breeders using him early on knew what they might get by breeding to him. His prepotency was established after multiple litters.

In considering a popular stud dog, new breeders

COURTESY JENNIFER ROBERSON



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should, if at all possible, see as many puppies sired by that dog as they can. Evaluate breed type in your foundation bitch. What virtues does she have, what faults? What do you *need* in a stud dog to breed a litter that in one or more ways is superior to your girl? Is that popular sire prepotent for specific traits and characteristics? (A truly prepotent stud dog, regardless of breed, is difficult to find, and most of us never do.) Is that popular stud dog producing, in other puppies, what your girl needs?

Let me repeat that: *Is that popular stud dog producing, in other puppies, what your girl needs?*

Three excellent resources exist to assist with the answer to that question.

1. *The Breed Archive*, where offspring are listed in the dam and sire's pedigree, usually with photos, and provides enough information that you can follow the breadcrumbs to related offspring.

2. Discussions with trust-

worthy, respected, and knowledgeable mentors who know what the popular sire may produce based on knowledge of his ancestors.

3. The CWCCA national specialty, where you can see that popular sire and a fair number of his kids. (Pictures are pretty, but in photos you can't get your hands on the dogs, and they don't move.)

When you have done the above, you're now armed with actual knowledge, not pipe dreams of big wins.

We all want to win. It's a rush! It's rightful pride in our dogs and achievements. But while significant show success is rewarding, so is something else. Something possibly many of us don't consider when embarking upon the initial development of a breeding program.

The future of the breed lies in our hands.

And it has nothing to do with winning.

—Jennifer Roberson

Jennifer Roberson has been showing Cardigans for 36 years and breeding them for 30. She has also served as

an officer on the CWCCA Board of Directors and as chair of Breeders' Education.

[Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Collies

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

There are many mysteries in this world: How do black holes originate, how many universes are there, where is that matching sock, and what are dog show judges thinking? Many try to explain, few find the answers.

In my experience there is one topic not often discussed by judges—the judge's evaluation and placement of an entry. What is the thought process? How do they prioritize and get to their winners? What weight do they give faults and virtues? And what are their preferences; what do they want to reward?

Few judges in my experience will talk about this. There are education seminars that teach our standard, but there is little to no

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Collie Ch. Cadet of Norando (Edwin Megargee painting)

hands-on experience where a judge must make choices in minutes. It isn't until that first assignment they are faced with immediate assessments. Much emphasis is put on show rules and knowing the standard, but no education is done on working through the actual entries while judging. It's on the job training.

In magazines from decades ago it was common for judges to comment on

their entries, and much of it would be considered brutal by today's standards. These judges did not hold back on critiquing entries both positively and negatively. Today judges are afraid to comment at all for very justifiable reasons. They will get a very chilly response and what was felt as trying to be honest or helpful is seen as negative and mean. Critiques in today's world are often generic, clichéd,

sometimes critical, with little enlightenment on the judge's priorities or thought process.

As breeders we are taught to breed to the standard regardless of what a judge does. But if dog shows are where we go to measure our progress then judges are the ones telling breeders what is important. When someone says they "got no love today," are they considering how the judge arrived at their decisions? Some exhibitors really study judges, try to figure out what they are looking for. Are exhibitors only showing to those they feel they can win under, instead of studying a judge to see what they reward as important?

Many judges haven't bred or shown in a long time, do they remember those hard-to-get virtues and details and reward them, or instead eliminate individuals by faults? Or are they drawn to the "eye catching" rather than the details that make up our standard? How do they weigh the faults against the virtues, do the faults carry



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more importance—either by punishing or more alarming, rewarding those faults?

Breeder judges are in a unique position to know how difficult it is to breed for and maintain virtues. Those who don't breed or show our breed, or haven't in a very long time, and judge, are ultimately providing an opinion of what is important. If they don't prioritize, they may be seduced by the eye-catching entry rather than the less dramatic dog who actually has those virtues.

How often have we seen the showy, glamorous dog win and the beautiful dog with lots of virtues walks out empty handed. It's tempting to be seduced, especially with so little time to evaluate. Judges can and do influence our breed. If eye-catching wins, then exhibitors will be tempted to breed and handlers to present those types rather than working toward a better dog.

Someone who tells a fellow exhibitor not to bother showing under a particular judge because they won't win

is on the wrong track. Rather suggest they study the results and see if they can figure out what that judge is looking for; if that judge is trying to reward virtue as described in our standard, then bring an entry that matches. Even no insight can be helpful. Maybe the judge doesn't have a process for selecting towards the ideal, so the eye-catching dog is easiest to reward. Exhibitors figure out what's important to that judge and bring the showy but virtue-deficient entry. And the cycle repeats itself.

—Marianne Sullivan,
Charlottesville, Virginia
millknock1@gmail.com
[Collie Club of America](#)

Finnish Lapphunds

FINNISH LAPPHUNDS—DATA

STORYTELLING TIME

In my life before all things dog, I was a data analyst. I loved working with data, building reports, and sharing data stories with my work colleagues. When I joined my breed's parent club five years ago and learned there

are breed statistics and title reports, I quickly asked to be the receiver for the club, even though I didn't know what questions to ask the data or what stories it could tell. So, I listened and watched, and when someone in the club would ask a question, I looked to see if the data might have answers.

- Breed stats. The first question that I looked to answer was “How many Finnish Lapphunds are in the U.S.?” Using the Parent Club Statistics litter complement data and an average life span of 12 years, I can roughly estimate the number of Lappies in this country to be around 1,100. The AKC 2023 most popular breed rankings (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/most-popular-dog-breeds-2023/>) mentioned that Lappies took a big step up in the rankings, moving from 167 to 135, and the graph of the litter data definitely shows that significant increase for 2023 after a long period of very slow growth. Was this a one-time jump, a new line

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on an upward trend, or will the breed hold steady at this new level for another period of time?

- Title data. One of the

things I learned quickly after I joined the Finnish Lapphund Club of America is that dog people love firsts—being the first dog

in the breed to earn the very first championship, or the first dog to finish a title series—was something to celebrate. By using

COURTESY MARIA SWARTS



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the historical title data, I reached out to the owners of those “first” dogs and wrote stories about them in our club Facebook group. The title data also supports the club’s Awards and Title Committee to process award requests and helps guide us as we build new awards programs. I use an Excel spreadsheet with a few columns added to aid with sorting and pivoting to assist me with making graphs and finding information more easily.

Last summer, I noticed there were more and more dogs on the monthly title reports, so it was time to dive in and see what was behind those increases. The numbers for 2023 simply blew me away—not just the total, but the range of new titles that were earned. We saw an amazing increase in conformation and a comeback in agility. Activities like Fast CAT, CGC, Trick Dog, Scent Work, and rally saw respectable increases as well.

In 2011 Finnish Lapphunds gained AKC

recognition, and the number of titles earned per year held somewhat steady over the first 10 years. During the pandemic in 2020, Lappies were busy working from home on virtual trick titles. As we came out of the pandemic in 2021 and 2022, titles increased strongly across all activities. The incredible jump in titles earned in 2023 was triple the number of titles earned five years earlier in 2018. Only part of the 2023 increase can be attributed to the increase in the number of puppies produced, as the 2023 puppies would not have been old enough to compete in agility or Fast CAT, and the number of puppies produced from 2018 compared to 2023 did not even double. Lappy owners are doing more with their dogs and demonstrating their dogs’ versatility in many activities.

The credit for the growth over the past few years goes to our preservation breeders for producing sound, healthy dogs with good

temperament; to our owners for getting out to work their dogs; and to the AKC for offering a variety of activities that our Lappies can excel in. The U.S. Finnish Lapphund community should be very proud of this growth and the diversity of titles being earned. Keep up the good work, everyone!

—Maria Swarts,

miaswarts@aol.com

[Finnish Lapphund Club of America](#)

German Shepherd Dogs

ASSESSING STRUCTURE IN THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

I started in German Shepherd Dogs in the early 1970s and became an AKC judge in 1983. I have bred and/or owned specialty winners, group winners, and working dogs.

During my time in the breed, I have witnessed several decades of German Shepherd Dogs. Whenever breeders and judges get together, movement seems to be the dominant topic of conversation—so much so

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that many times I wonder if that is the *only* criterion for many fanciers. It most certainly is important, but there are many other aspects of the breed.

Our standard does give significant language to proper movement. This is for good reason. Our dog is a working dog first and foremost. Sound, balanced movement is critical to the dog's ability to work long hours as a herding dog, police or military dog, search-and-rescue dog, and so on. In our zeal to capitalize on movement, we have seen unfortunate trends in the breed. Rotated fore assemblies, overly angulated hindquarters, and poor proportions have led to many dogs who do not have the physical soundness to work all day. And at the end of the day, physical and *mental* soundness are the overriding requisites for this breed.

Our standard talks about dogs who have the look of muscular fitness and agility. A German Shepherd Dog should be able to



German
Shepherd
Dog

stand strongly over his feet. In motion he should be smooth and rhythmic. The motion of the hindquarter is described as smooth with good follow-through. Over-reaching, where the hind leg comes under and the dog actually lands on his hock, is to be faulted. So is a dog whose toes drag the ground as they come under. The hock joint should fully open, as the stifle, with a smooth, powerful thrust from the rear. The rear legs should come forward and drive the

dog forward with a smooth, powerful thrust—the rear foot passing the imprint of the front foot. The dog should resemble a well-oiled machine.

The smooth, flowing gait is maintained with great strength and firmness of back. When standing in a natural, foursquare pose, the upper thigh bone should parallel the shoulder blade, while the lower thigh bone parallels the upper arm. The metatarsus should be strong.

Shoulders should be long

DAVID WOO ©AKC



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and obliquely angled. The standard specifically mentions they should not be placed forward. The powerful effort of the hindquarter is transmitted through the back. The shoulder should open to its full extent. The feet should stay close to the ground, not lifting high. Through the years I have seen some flashy movers who “point” and “lift” in the front, giving the false illusion of extreme motion—but the footfall is a different matter altogether. This sort of motion is flashy but exhausting to the dogs.

As a working dog, the German Shepherd Dog’s movement is best evaluated at a slow speed similar to the speed the dog would use in tending flocks or doing other types of work central to the breed. Excessive speed should not be used to evaluate our dogs.

It is to be remembered in all things that the German Shepherd Dog is a *working* dog and must possess the physical and mental soundness necessary for

arduous tasks.

—Vicki Bemont

Vicki Bemont has been as AKC Judge of German Shepherd Dogs for 40 years, a breeder, exhibitor, and CGC evaluator. She has titled dogs in obedience, agility, herding, and rally, and she worked as a SAR handler for many years.

[The German Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Icelandic Sheepdogs

AT YOUR SERVICE: SEARCH AND RESCUE ICELANDICS

It’s Sunday morning, and as they do most Sundays of the year, Noora and Kobbi are headed for training with the Rhode Island Canine Search and Rescue team. Noora (Lokasteinn Noora) started training before she was 2 years old and certified for live searches after six months of intensive training. Now at age 12, she still barks and dances enthusiastically when handler/owner Mike Koster brings out her working vest.

At 6 years old, Kobbi

(Fox Meadow Elskan Min Fjallakobbi) is newer to the work, but already like Noora he is certified for live searches and human remains detection.

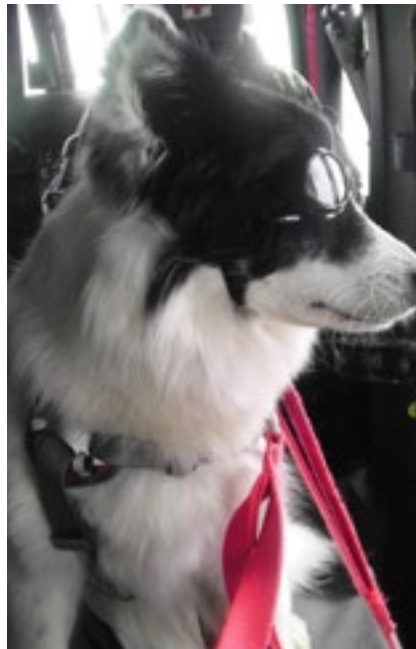
Noora and Kobbi are unique among Icelandics in the U.S. by having these certifications. Kobbi is also water cadaver certified and may be the only Icelandic Sheepdog in North America with that status. Co-owner Patricia Buckley plays a key role along with Mike in the care and health of these very special Icelandics.

Although they are smaller than most Search and Rescue (SAR) dogs, Noora and Kobbi are quite suitable for the work because of their agility and stamina. Fallen trees, briars, swampy areas, water crossings? No problem! Rock or rubble piles, icy or snowy conditions? That’s what those Icie dew claws are for! Tight places inaccessible to the larger police-dog breeds? Can do! Independent work off leash when searching? Their loud and high-pitched bark that

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Icelandic Sheepdogs Noora and Kobbí training in search-and-rescue (SAR): Though smaller than many SAR dogs, the breed excels because of their agility and stamina. Noora has trained to travel by helicopter, wearing a harness as well as goggles to protect her eyes. Kobbí has learned to do water searches.

indicates when something is found makes them easy to locate, and a reliable recall (along with a strong desire

to be with their human) can quickly get them back when necessary.

Mike notes that typically

COURTESY MIKE KOSTER AND PATRICIA BUCKLEY

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his dogs stay within eyesight in their search grid, so they do not need to wear a tracking device. Because of their lighter weight, Noora and Kobbi are relatively easy to strap in and hold when rappelling a vertical wall.

Noora has had training to travel by helicopter to distant locations: She wears goggles to protect her eyes, and she may wear a harness so that she can be tethered to the helicopter or to Mike for extra safety. Kobbi has learned to do searches while in different kinds of watercraft. Both dogs get along well with other dogs, which is critical for working in close quarters and in different kinds of environments.

SAR dogs can bring home a dementia patient who has wandered away, or a small child who is missing. They can locate evidence when a person's remains are scattered outdoors and sometimes bring closure to previously unsolved cases.

How does one train a dog for SAR work?

In many respects, the fundamentals for SAR training are not unlike the basic skills used for other kinds of scenting work. Instead of learning to indicate birch, anise, clove, or cypress odors, as in AKC Scent Work, or differentiating between a tube with a live rat versus a tube with rat litter as in AKC-recognized Barn Hunt, in SAR training the dog learns to recognize general human odor by means of air scenting. This is different from AKC Tracking or trailing sports where the dog is trained to follow, nose to the ground, the path of a particular tracklayer's individual scent.

Live-find SAR dogs begin their training with a game of locating a hidden trainer who, over weeks of practice, hides at farther distances from the dog. The dog is taught to indicate its find by barking at the trainer to receive its "big party" rewards of praise and treats. The barking alerts the handler to the location of the "missing" trainer. After

many repetitions, the prospect of the "big party" motivates the dog to search and discover the human. Additional layers of learning include delays in time before the dog is released for its search and practicing in different weather conditions.

Training prior to certification generally takes 18 months of at least weekly sessions. For Mike and his dogs, certification for live searches by the Rhode Island State Police came when he demonstrated competency in map and compass reading and in overseeing grid work, and when Noora and Kobbi found, within two hours, a human hiding in a 40-acre area.

For human remains training, several tubes are set up that the dog learns to sniff. One tube will contain some type of human remains (e.g., surgical rags, bone, teeth, or cremains), and the dog is rewarded when the tube is identified correctly. The dog is thus imprinted



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over time with scents of non-living human material, which is then transferred to outdoor and scattered conditions. Land certification is required prior to water certification.

According to Mike, Noora and Kobbi do SAR work to keep them busy—to give them a job. On Sunday afternoons they come home having had a positive experience: the dogs always find something for which they are rewarded. But this job is also an important service to the wider community. SAR teams are volunteers who are on call 24/7. They buy their own equipment and spend hours training. Most state SAR organizations rely heavily on donations from the public to support their work.

To Mike, Noora, and Kobbi—and to all SAR canine teams—thank you for your service!

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,

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Icelandic Sheepdog
Association of America

Lancashire Heelers

HEAD OVER HEELERS

Years ago, when I worked at the American Kennel Club’s office on Madison Avenue, my good friend and cubemate Mara Bovsun and I had a saying:

I could seriously get into that breed.

Usually, “that breed” was the subject of whatever we were writing for that issue—profiles of working dogs, amazing companions, incredible canine athletes, breeds new to the AKC. Our sources told us charming anecdotes of their dogs’ antics, then sealed the deal with photos of wrinkled, waddling puppies or stunning specials—I fell in love often, and hard.

The Lancashire Heeler was one such breed.

It was 2009 when I found the rugged little drover tucked away on the Foundation Stock Service page of the AKC website, where he’d been since 2001. The few pictures I saw depicted Heelers as small, scrappy, and smiling—the

perfect companion for my black and tan Pomeranian and our studio apartment, right?

I could seriously get into that breed.

And I did—only a full decade later.

Now, I’d like to think I knew what I was getting into. I had bred and shown Pomeranians for years, titling in multiple disciplines. I apprenticed with a professional handler throughout college. I worked for the AKC, in New York City and later as a freelancer. I knew what it meant to be a responsible dog owner—to do my research and really understand a breed before committing.

But no amount of research prepared me for life with a Lancashire Heeler.

Scoop joined our family in 2019—7 months old, smack in his gangly teens. And it was apparent right away that the “world’s smallest drover” is nothing like the toy breeds I was used to.

First, he chewed everything. All my son’s stuffed

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“Small, scrappy, and smiling”: multitalented Scoop the Lancashire Heeler looks adoringly at his owner.

animals are missing ears and tails. Scoop once ate a box of crayons, which I discovered when picking up a very colorful stool sample.

OK, so he needed a job. I enrolled him in obedience and agility, where he caught on so quickly that he earned nicknames like “showoff” and “the ringer.” When the pandemic hit, we racked up title after title in virtual rally, home manners, tricks, scent work, and parkour. When

the world opened up again, we added Canine Good Citizen, Barn Hunt, and conformation.

The standard describes Heelers as “courageous, happy, and affectionate to owner.” I would add hopelessly devoted, bordering on obsession. Scoop follows me from room to room, constantly watching, observing, probably judging. He lies across my feet as I wash the dishes. He’s sleeping beside

me, upside-down, as I write this column.

And Scoop gives *constant* commentary. He barks in alert and in protest, in jubilation and frustration. He even barks in his sleep.

Heelers are believed to be related to Corgis and Manchester Terriers (though there’s some debate on that). I don’t have cattle, but I do have three small boys in a two-bedroom apartment, where Scoop’s herding instincts are on full display. He’ll nip at their heels when things get too raucous—yet shows so much restraint and gentleness when my 2-year-old grabs at his ears or tail.

Scoop loves children. He regularly accompanies us to the playground and will give any kid a spin or a paw in exchange for cheese puffs. But at home, he’s extremely protective of his palace. He greets house guests by cursing them, gives them a good, thorough sniff, then keeps a close eye on the intruders to ensure no funny business.

There is nothing this dog can’t do—and he knows

COURTESY LINDSEY DOBRUCK / RYAN RITTER PHOTOGRAPHY



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it, so he insists on being part of everything. He tags along on errands, hikes, camping trips, and outdoor restaurants. If we leave him home—well, he has a lot of opinions on that, and he shares them loudly, with the neighbors.

Scoop is everything a Lancashire Heeler should be—and he’s everything my family needs. But this breed isn’t right for everyone.

Potential pet owners should know that Lancashire Heelers are brilliant, devoted companions who thrive in an active household. They prefer not to be left home alone for extended periods of time. They excel in almost every dog sport—our club members compete in agility, rally, obedience, Fast CAT, Barn Hunt, scent work, AKC Fetch, dock diving, treibball, parkour, canine freestyle, earthdog, and, of course, herding.

Potential breeders should know that Lancashire Heelers are still very rare. The latest data available to the United States

Lancashire Heeler Club (USLHC) shows fewer than 400 Lancashire Heelers registered with the AKC. The breed is classified as “vulnerable” in the United Kingdom, with just 108 registered with the Kennel Club (England) last year. According to the AKC website, there are fewer than 5,000 Heelers worldwide.

The club has joined with the Orthopedic Foundation of America (OFA) and the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) to guide U.S. breeders to healthy, disease-free breeding for future generations of Heelers. Primary lens luxation (PLL), Collie Eye Anomaly, (CEA), and patellar luxation are three required tests that breeders must perform to qualify for a CHIC number in the OFA database. The USLHC recommends the above listed basic health screening tests for all breeding stock.

Finally, judges should know that Lancashire Heelers are drovers—they are not terriers, nor collies,

nor toy dogs. In the ring, Heelers should show confidence and energy; they should not be skittish or cowardly. On the table, they may be aloof or suspicious of strangers. Movement should be brisk, natural, and free. The standard describes ears “showing alert lift, or erect”—which includes button, rose, or erect ears.

The Lancashire Heeler is an intense, rugged, intelligent little dog that has brought so much joy to my family—and some angst, too. I look forward to sharing more about the breed and the dedicated fanciers who’ve got us to full recognition.

And maybe, after reading one of these columns, you’ll find yourself thinking, *I could seriously get into that breed.*—Lindsey Dobruck,

[United States Lancashire Heeler Club](#)

Norwegian Buhunds

STRESS IN THERAPY DOGS

In recent years Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

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has become increasingly popular, with dogs being used as part of a therapeutic process in schools, hospitals, and other places in the community. In parallel with this interest in AAT, we have also seen an interest in examining the effects of therapy sessions on the dogs themselves.

Therapy organizations refer to AAT as involving a human-dog “team,” suggesting a mutually-dependent relationship with dogs as “partners” in therapeutic activities. These AAT organizations focus on minimizing the stress levels of dogs, ensuring that they are willing participants in therapy sessions, and are not merely tolerating interactions with participants. For example, the policies and procedures of Pet Partners (<https://pet-partners.org/>) emphasize the importance of providing support for dogs, ensuring positive interactions, and reading dogs’ body language so as to understand approaching and avoidant

behaviors. The Animal Assisted Intervention International standards (<https://aai-int.org/aai/standards-of-practice/>) state that “The dog shall be viewed as a subjective participant instead of an objective instrument, with the animal’s behavior and interaction being assessed, not just the human’s reaction. The animal is a key part to the intervention and can heavily influence the outcomes.” Similarly, the International Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy (<https://isaat.org/>) stresses that dog therapy work should benefit both humans and animals.

Scholars such as Glenk and her colleagues have looked at studies that examined the effect of AAT sessions in hospitals, schools, and universities on dogs’ stress levels. The stress levels are measured through questionnaires in which handlers report observations of dogs’ behavior, as well as objective measures such as salivary cortisol levels

and heart rates. Overall, these studies found that therapy dogs experienced slight arousal during AAT sessions. Although cortisol levels and heart rates increased on therapy days, the values were still within normal ranges.

At the same time, there are certain aspects of AAT that do appear to increase stress in dogs. A 2018 study by Clark and Smidt published in the *Journal of Veterinary Behavior* found that stress levels were higher in younger, less experienced dogs as opposed to older, more experienced dogs. Stress levels were also lower in dogs that participated in more frequent, twice-a-week AAT sessions as opposed to those that participated less frequently, perhaps because familiarity with a location results in acclimation and enables the therapy dogs to feel more comfortable in that space. Glenk and her colleagues published a 2021 article in *Veterinary Sciences* that discussed several other aspects of dog therapy that



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Norwegian Buhund

influence the stress levels of dogs. Therapy dogs that had to travel more than 50 minutes from their home were more stressed, as were dogs who had to work in high temperatures and those who were overcrowded by participants. Certain types of therapy activities have also been found to result in higher levels of stress. For example, dogs experienced more discomfort when petted on the head, paw, or tail, as opposed to the chest, back, or neck.

During AAT sessions, the emotional state and behav-

ior of the therapy dogs can influence the emotions and behavior of participants and vice versa. Because of this, we need ensure that we support the well-being of our therapy dogs.

—Jasmine Tata, 41285 N. Point Drive, Antioch, Illinois 60002; jtata2@yahoo.com
[Norwegian Buhund Club of America](#)

Old English Sheepdogs IS YOUR DOG OVERWEIGHT?

These days it seems like you can find at least one organization that sup-

ports any cause imaginable. One that recently caught my attention is APOP, short for Association for Pet Obesity Prevention. A visit to their website (<http://www.petobesityprevention.org>) provided lots of interesting information, some of it rather alarming. Since 2005 the association has conducted an annual clinical survey to determine the percentage of dogs and cats that are either overweight or actually obese. Results from 2018 are not yet available, but for 2017, 50.2 million dogs were found to be either overweight (36.4 percent) or obese (19.6 percent), for a total of 56 percent. This percentage has now increased annually since 2012, when it was 52.5 percent.

I suspect that the numbers might be higher for OES. It is easy for owners to be in denial and conclude OI' Bean isn't really overweight, just carrying a heavy coat right now. This ties in with another amazing statistic. When owners were asked to classify their pet's weight,

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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48.5 percent considered their dog to be of normal weight, when it was clinically overweight or actually obese.

To quote Dr. Ernie Ward, founder of APOP, “Obesity is the most common preventable health condition being treated in veterinary clinics today.” Failure to correct the problem will reduce your dog’s life span by as much as two years. Reasons for the decline include increased risks of Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, osteoarthritis, heart disease, and various forms of cancer. More recently, studies have shown that fat causes inflammation and that can raise the dog’s discomfort level. As a result, the animal becomes more lethargic and interacts less with its family.

If you want to be sure that your dog is fit and will lead a long, active life, where do you begin? A good place is to use one of several similar body condition scoring (BCS) systems, which are simple and semi-quantitative. If you are involved



with livestock, as I am, you probably use something very similar to evaluate condition in sheep or cattle. To make a judgement about your dog’s condition, you look down on the dog to see if the waist appears as an indentation behind the rib cage. You also look from the side to see if there is a nice tuck-up or if you are seeing a paunch. Finally, you palpate the ribs to estimate the thickness of the fat covering them. You will then want your vet to confirm your assessment. Make sure the

vet understands that you want him or her to “Tell it like it is.” Vets tend to sugarcoat weight issues to avoid offending clients.

If the conclusion is that Buzz is overweight or obese, then you need to work out a diet plan. This should include a thorough health assessment to be sure there are no underlying problems already developing.

You then need to determine the dog’s current caloric intake. Don’t overlook treats, snacks, or things like finishing the cat’s leftover dinner.

COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTO

BREED COLUMNS

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These can act like “calorie grenades” and sabotage your careful meal plan. In establishing the new diet your vet will need to know the dog’s age, whether it is alone much of the day, if it has been spayed or neutered, etc. According to APOP, a normal dog can safely lose about three percent of its body weight per month, so getting down to the ideal weight will be a slow process for an obese dog. Crash dieting is not recommended, as this can lead to sudden liver failure.

Since your overweight dog has likely been rather inactive, you will want to add some sort of fitness plan to the program. This should be structured and repetitive with at least 30 minutes of activity per day. You want to raise the heart rate, work the various muscle groups, and increase your dog’s body awareness. The choices are legion and might include the following:

- Try dancing. If you are turning, twisting, and two-stepping, get your dog

to move with you.

- Do Trick Dog training. Bowing, crawling, begging, and doing a high-five will work the core muscles. You could even add a couple Trick Dog titles along the way.

- Even if you aren’t looking for a title, find a local agility class that meets weekly.

- If yours is a single-dog household, divide each meal into small portions and hide these around the house. This will get Ol’ Shaggy moving and provide some mental stimulation, as well.

- If a brisk outdoor walk is not an option, a treadmill is an excellent choice. Close supervision is needed, but the intensity of the workout can be slowly increased as fitness improves.

- At the conclusion of the workout, you can provide a small, low-calorie treat. Just remember, it is a reward, not a meal.

When going through your exercise regimen, the new generation of dog activity monitors will allow you to quantify each day’s activity.

It will also provide information that you can share with your vet to check progress.

In closing, here is one more quote from Dr. Ward. “The most important decision you make each day about your pet’s health is what you choose to feed it. Choose wisely; your pet’s life depends on it.”

—Joe Schlitt,
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 Old English Sheepdog Club of America

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

MOVING ON

I brought my first Pembroke Welsh Corgi home in August of 1968. When I look at the five that currently share my house, I wonder, where have the ensuing almost 56 years gone? That question can be readily answered by just looking around the house. Stacks of magazines. Handbooks from two different Pembroke clubs. Specialty catalogs. Ribbons. Photos. Certificates of various sorts. Figurines.

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Sweatshirts. T-shirts. Prints. Rosettes. Trophies. Columns written for the GAZETTE, as well as other publications. And more!

It is time to move on to a smaller house, on one level rather than two, and downsizing much of the household. There's clothing to be donated. Furniture to find a new home. Dog crates and some equipment of various types to go to other homes. Corgi items to be donated. Items inherited from relatives to be donated or sold. So many memories being uncovered as the *donate-keep-trash* cycle continues through each area of the house.

And then there are the dogs. My oldest will be 12 at the end of May. At the last set of agility trials we attended, his slight hesitation as he pondered whether the really wanted to go up that A-frame one more time told me that he is ready to move on. I cancelled his entries for upcoming trials and wistfully retired him from agility, but not from



From the Pembroke Welsh Corgi standard: "Movement is especially important, particularly as viewed from the side."

obedience and other activities that he loves and are less taxing on his body.

My youngest turns a year old shortly, so she will be moving on from the puppy to the adult conformation classes. She has blown her coat in a massive shed, so we are moving on into other ventures while we wait for her to mature and for her coat to return. What a change from 1982, when I brought home my first "show" puppy! He did obe-

dience and tracking along with conformation, as that was all there was at the time. Now, so much to from which to choose! However, while I like to think that I am several decades younger than I am, my body begs to differ, and I need to move on from some of my usual activities to ones that will be easier on the knees and body.

The local specialty club is moving on as well, adding more events. We added Fast

COURTESY KIMBERLY MAFFIT



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CAT to our club events and are planning our first set of agility trials. We held our second set of independent specialties, and we are moving on to the next set. Some members no longer breed or show, moving on to other activities, but continue to support the club and its endeavors. Clubs evolve just as we do.

Pembroke fanciers will be moving on to the annual national specialty, to be held September 21–28. The specialty will begin September 21, with two days of herding in Rockfield, Kentucky. Agility will take place Monday, September 23, in Watertown, Tennessee. Obedience and rally will follow on the 24th at the Holiday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green, Kentucky—the primary site for the specialty. Sweepstakes and regular classes will follow the remainder of the week. Best of Breed competition and the banquet will conclude the specialty week on the 28th. There will be other

events as well as the annual membership meeting. For complete, updated information, check out <http://www.pwccanational.com/> from time to time, and get a move on!

—Lynda McKee,
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Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Pulik

AIR PULI!

Looking for something exciting to do with your Puli? While we most often see other breeds (like Border Collies) moving and twisting spectacularly in pursuit of a flying disc, did you know that some Pulik also enjoy this activity?

Disc Dog (also known as “Frisbee Dog”) came to attention at the same time there was rising popularity in Frisbee sports in the early 1970s. Interest was fueled in August 1974, when college student Alex Stein smuggled his Whippet (“Ashley Whippet”) into a nationally broadcast baseball game

and captivated many people with a rogue demonstration. The game was interrupted for eight minutes while the dog repeatedly sprinted and leapt up in the air to catch a flying disc—before Alex was escorted off the field by police (and arrested). The next year, Alex went on to create the Frisbee Dog World Championship along with two other enthusiasts.

Disc Dog competitions are now held both nationally and internationally. For an interesting read on the history of Disc Dog, see <https://hyperflite.com/canine-disc-history/>.

So why is this sport referred to as “Disc Dog”? “Frisbee” is a trademark held by Wham-O for their brand of flying discs.

Exhibitors in this canine sport do not use just any disc. Canine competition discs (Hyperflite and Hero Disc are the leaders in dog-safe discs) incorporate improvements to stand up to high-stress from tooth punctures yet are softer on the mouth than many discs

BREED COLUMNS



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Not every dog will be interested in playing disc—but when they love it, they can really fly. Learning often begins on the ground and not in the air, with dogs initially taught to track and chase a “roller” —a rolling disc.

manufactured for human use. Hyperflite designed grip surfaces in such a way that they don't retain grit and dirt, which can act like revolving sandpaper on canine teeth. The toys that cause the most significant tooth wear in canines are

fabric discs and tennis balls. These toys retain dirt and grit in their fibers, and when canines chew on them, they can wear down their teeth dramatically. And, it should probably go without saying, a disc should never be used as a chew toy.

COURTESY BUHA ORSOLYA / EGERER ANNA / DAGMAR FERTL / TRUE COLORS PHOTOGRAPHY MELISSA SHEEHAN

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The bond between handler and dog is celebrated in this sport, emphasizing teamwork and coordination. In Disc Dog competitions, teams of one person and one dog participate in events involving distance and the dynamic freestyle, where handlers choreograph routines set to music using multiple discs. Griggs (2009) wrote: “If carried out well, a disc dog performance emanates ‘coolness’...”

There are many popular Disc Dog organizations out there, and even AKC offers Disc Dog titles (I probably should not have been surprised to find this out). UpDog has taken the basic game of fetch with a flying disc and expanded it into a whole bunch of fun games (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/disc-dog-101-whats-updog-challenge/>). Dogs get points in every game, and cumulative points earn UpDog Achievements (called “UPs”). Once a medal UP is earned in at least three games, you can apply for the AKC Disc

Dog titles (<https://www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/disc-dog/>). To date, no Puli has these titles. This year’s AKC Disc Dog Challenge, hosted in collaboration with the UpDog Challenge, is slated for June 2 in Asheville, North Carolina.

A dog flying into the air and making acrobatic moves is truly amazing to watch. Yet an accident is always one wrong move away, as with any performance sport. The torque of twisting and the force exerted on the body by jumping (i.e., kinetics) are substantial. Be sure to be aware of the signs that your dog might have an injury. There is not much published information pertaining to injuries obtained during Disc Dog, but other high-impact dog sports (e.g., agility and lure coursing) suggest that soft-tissue injuries are common. Strains, sprains, and contusions to the shoulder, back, phalanges (toe bones), and neck could be encountered, in addition to stress fractures

in the feet (carpal, metacarpal, tarsal, and metatarsal bones). Degenerative joint disease also is a consideration. Massage, chiropractic care, and acupuncture are utilized to help relieve pain, improve joint motion, and aid in recovery in performance dogs.

Teaching your Puli to catch a flying disc is relatively easy to do. (Honestly, one of the most difficult things during disc training was for *me* to learn the technique of throwing a disc correctly.) However, please realize that not every dog will be interested in playing disc, even if they really like fetching balls. With some individuals, however, it may just be a matter of building interest in the activity. There are good sources at the end of this column on how to teach your Puli to play disc.

Learning begins on the ground and not in the air, with dogs initially taught to track and chase a “roller” (i.e., a rolling disc). They then work their way ultimately to catching the disc



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in the air. I have only had two Pulik who were very excited about playing disc, and for them it was “on-the-job-training” by watching a Border Collie I owned, and I didn’t actually do any training. Those two Pulik honestly always were of the mindset “anything that the Border Collie can do, we can do better.”

Gerald Griggs recalls a statement made by a famous disc player: “When a ball dreams, it dreams it’s a Frisbee” (*Sport in Society*, 12:1317-1326, 2012). Does that mean when a ball-chasing dog dreams, it dreams of being a Disc Dog?

Thanks to Buha Orsolya for sharing her photographs of her maskos fako Puli, who has Disc Dog titles in Hungary. (Maskos fako is fawn coloring with a black mask—a coloration included in the breed’s FCI standard, but not in its AKC standard, though not a disqualification.) The black Puli photos were taken by Melissa Sheehan (True Colors Photography) and are the

property of Dagmar Fertl.

For more information:
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Zink, M.C. 1997. *Peak Performance: Conditioning the Canine Athlete*, second edition, Canine Sports Productions.

—Dagmar Fertl,
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[Puli Club of America](https://www.puliclubofamerica.com/)

Shetland Sheepdogs

SHELTIE NATION

Sheltie Nation gathered at Purina Farms on April 12–20 for a celebration of our breed in herding, obedience, rally, agility, and conformation competition. The first three days saw Shelties demonstrating their

skills in the performance events. Purina Farms provides the capability for all the events to be hosted on the same property.

After attending 43 nationals in the last 47 years, I had to miss this year’s due to a conflict of obligations and dates of the month. Fortunately, I was able to livestream the breed judging each day, and I was amazed at how clearly I could watch each Sheltie move and be examined. I missed being able to visit with friends and attend all the other activities at the national, but the ability to view each dog from the same view as the videographer was amazing. It was the next-best thing to being the judge. The close-up of each dog on the table allowed us to see what the judge was seeing while she performed her hands-on exam. If you knew what it meant when her hands outlined a part of the dog, you could see the virtues.

The dog’s stacked silhouette on the table was apparent and could be

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compared to the silhouette displayed at the end of the gaiting toward and away from the camera. The down-and-back showed which dogs were the better movers (if the handlers remembered to go straight toward and then away from the camera). There is almost nowhere in the audience where a person can sit and gain the perspective that you get from watching the video feed.

You can sit at almost any major sporting event in this country and see the best of the action on a Jumbotron. We are actively involved in every play of football,

baseball, basketball, and so on. Watching on livestream, you can see members of the audience looking everywhere but at the dog because their view does not give them the perspective needed to actually know what is happening. Life and 25-year members are seeing the tail of the dog on the table, and the trophy table blocks most of their view of any movement. The chairs where members sit who paid for front-row seats up close get to see whatever portions of the dog show up around the back of the handler, while on the table and

blocked by the exam table and the judge while moving or they are off to the side and may get a glimpse as the dog rounds the corners.

I think we should be able to do better, especially since the livestream is going on in the building. I believe the time has come for Purina to consider providing the livestream of a specialty show on several large video screens on strategic corners, and one or two screens in the grooming area.

I think if more people could see how well they can see and evaluate the dogs, they would purchase more videos that include their dogs.

If we truly want to support the educational aspect of the national specialty with our current and future exhibitors and breeders, we need to support livestreaming the individual dogs to the audience. Purina could place a medium-size Jumbotron on the east wall where most people could see the view of the videographer. The armband numbers of the absentees, cuts, and winners could



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also be displayed so those at home can keep appraised of who's on first, what is coming second, and so on. I believe this could truly enhance future nationals.

All four breed judges did an outstanding job of sorting through their entry. Shannalee Waller Michalsky did a beautiful job of judging the Futurity, putting Can. Ch. Laureate Torrington Best in Futurity, with Runner-up awarded to Blue Heavens Pretty Little Poison.

Barbara Wright judged our dog classes, and she did her usual wonderful job and gave Winners Dog to Mystic Suntime Unapologetic, and Reserve to the Futurity winner Can. Ch. Laureate Torrington.

Jennie Hynes was our judge for the bitches, and again we were privileged to watch a marvelous job of judging. She awarded Winners Bitches to Liska Shadows in the Moonlight, and Reserve to Solange Insight.

On Saturday our Junior Showmanship judge, Jennie Hynes, put the juniors

through their paces and awarded Best Junior to Fallyn Riney, and Reserve Best Junior to Demery Livingston.

Then respected judge Ellen Worthington commenced to spend the rest of the day sorting through an entry of 157 specials. Best of Breed was Ch. Macdega Last Tango. Best of Winners was Mystic Suntime Unapologetic, and Best Opposite Sex was Ch. Laureate Ode to Joy. Select Dog was Ch. Mystic Suntime Super Nova, and Select Bitch was Ch. Mystic Suntime Everclear. And there were 16 beautiful Awards of Merit.

Next year, on April 11, 2025, we will gather at Island Grove Park, in Greeley, Colorado, to do it all again—our next opportunity to impress the world with the beauty and versatility of the wonderful Shetland Sheepdogs.

—Janice M. Leonard,
ASSA Life member
[American Shetland Sheepdog Association](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

PLATO (NOT PLUTO!) AND THE AKC: WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

What a long, strange trip it's been, from circa 430 BCE in ancient Greece to 2024 at AKC headquarters on Park Avenue in New York City.

For those who think my text here is getting further away from answering my title question than providing an answer, please stay tuned.

Plato proposed that all things in the natural world are imperfect iterations of a much higher ideal representation of the objects in question. He also posited that the mental image of perfection, or “Platonic form,” of each object dwells in the consciousness of the thinker, and that it is only through contemplation of these higher forms that true knowledge of the physical world could be achieved.

OK, we have now exhausted my knowledge of the Platonic foundation of knowledge. Unlike some folks with whom I attended



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college I was not to become an unemployed philosophy major but would spend the vast majority of my adult life as a high school teacher. Once in a while we held Socratic discussions in class, but that was as close as I got.

Anyway, where does this take us? Time marches on. As young humans, children begin to attach names to objects and phenomena around them. Momma and Daddy can hardly wait until Junior speaks their first word—ideally identifying one of the parents correctly. For a while, everything with four legs and a tail may be “kitty.” The distinguishing

characteristics of different mammals they encounter are not yet clear to the youngster.

See where this is going? Your mental picture of a chair, today, as an adult, may vary wildly from mine. Generally, a chair is three or four legs upon which a platform (seat) is balanced, the purpose of the object upon which one is to sit. But my mental picture is of the rocker my Gramma had on the front porch. Or the desk chair my school district had to dispose of when I retired, because they could not clean it adequately of all the Dalmatian hair it had accu-

mulated in 30 years.

Look! See? I just got back to dogs! Plato’s mental image of perfection is the distant forebear of the AKC breed standard!

Each parent club is the national expert on its breed. Each club has codified the mental image of the breed to produce a document of words (and sometimes pictures, as with illustrated standards) to describe the perfect specimen of that breed—detailing size, structure, gait, temperament, and other factors that distinguish one breed from another.

Once the parent club has authored its standard and voted to accept it, it goes to the AKC for approval. After approval, the standard becomes the document to which each animal is compared, to evaluate its worth as breeding stock and its perceived ability to carry out its historic function.

And once again, we have moved from the ideal mental image to the vagaries of the English language. As soon as a standard starts



HERDING GROUP

using “wobble words”—nonspecific adjectives that allow for a vast number of interpretations—we imperfect humans are in trouble again. In other words, “Here comes the judge!”

Excerpt from the AKC Swedish Vallhund breed standard:

“The SV is a small, powerful, fearless, sturdily built Spitz herding dog. The correct relationship of height to length of body is 2:3. The SV has a wedge-shaped head, prick ears, and a close-fitting hard coat of medium length and sable coloring. The double coat and the characteristic ‘harness markings’ are essential features of this breed. Tail may be natural (long, stub, or bob) or docked. The appearance of the Swedish Vallhund conveys intelligence, alertness, and energy. Balance, outline, temperament, and movement are of overriding importance.”

Imagine any all-breed judge in the conformation ring. Their task: to identify

the male and female animals in the ring who are worthy of recognition in the form of ribbons and points. If the judge is licensed to judge an entire group, they have demonstrated an understanding of 20–30 or more different breed standards. At about two minutes per dog, they must recall the points of the standard that the breed club considers essential, apply those points to those animals present in the ring that day, and rank those animals accordingly. “Small, powerful, fearless, sturdily built ... conveys intelligence, alertness, and energy, Balance, outline, temperament, and movement are of overriding importance.” How many imprecise words did you identify?

Now, let’s take the language of the standard to breeding. If a breeder adheres to the concept that “form follows function,” what role does the standard play? Unfortunately, what is winning in the ring, whether or not that dog is

acceptable according to the breed standard, may drive a breeder’s decision of how to choose an appropriate mate for their animal. If it’s winning, it must be good, right? It ain’t necessarily so! Just because one of these animals is not like the others should not make it the last choice for the judge.

Planning to breed? Examine pedigrees, health clearances, numbers of litters bred—all of these help to give a better picture of the best fit for a prospective mate. PSS (Popular Sire Syndrome) is real, sometimes taking several generations of breeding to show the aberrations caused by following a particular pedigree line.

Dog show judging and breeding are not for the faint of heart. All factions must do their homework in the eternal attempt to achieve Plato’s representation of the ideal example in the living model.

—Laura Kiedaisch

[Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)



SECRETARY'S PAGES

MISSION STATEMENT The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.

Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Big Apple Working Group Club

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

John Brading, Pittsboro, NC,
Dachshund Club of America
Alyson Casper, Davie, FL,
Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood
Anita Forde, San Luis Obispo, CA,
Santa Maria Kennel Club
Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Stokesdale, NC,
Waterloo Kennel Club
Robert Lamm, East Windsor, NJ,
Bearded Collie Club of America
Chris Murphy, Elizabethtown, KY,
St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association
Jefferson Sossamon, Columbia, MO,
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club
Robin Springer, Klamath Falls, OR,
Klamath Dog Fanciers

 **gazette** Click here to read the June 2024 issue!

Brice Wonders, Kirkland, PA,
Skye Terrier Club of America

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individuals stand suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Mr. Jim Crandell (Dade City, FL)

Ms. Amanda Lofland (Sawyer, MI)

NOTICE

Ms. Hunter Crawford (Spring Lake, NC). Action was taken by the Palmer Divide Agility Club for conduct at its March 17, 2024 event. Ms. Crawford was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension of event privileges and imposed a \$500 fine, effective March 25, 2024. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Jean Eichenlaub (San Diego, CA). Action was taken by the Scent Work Club of the San Gabriel Foothills for conduct at its March 9, 2024 event. Ms.

Eichenlaub was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and a \$200 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. Timothy Rahn (Hamburg, PA). Action was taken by the Delaware County Kennel Club for conduct at its March 16, 2024 event. Mr. Rahn was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month suspension of event privileges and imposed a \$500 fine, effective April 9, 2024. (Bloodhounds)

NOTICE

Ms. Dianne Westermeyer (Loveland, OH). Action was taken by the Evansville Kennel Club for conduct at its March 16, 2024 event. Ms. Westermeyer was charged with whelping dogs at an event site. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and a \$200 fine. (Great Danes)

NOTICE

Mr. Donald Westermeyer (Loveland, OH). Action was taken by the Evansville Kennel Club for conduct at its March 16, 2024 event. Mr. Westermeyer was charged



SECRETARY'S PAGES

with whelping dogs at an event site. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and a \$200 fine. (Great Danes)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for six-months from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$500 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements: Effective May 10, 2024:

- Ms. F Joan Culp (Mifflinburg, PA)
Multiple Breeds
- Ms. Daniel Misiolek (Hopkins, MI)
Multiple Breeds

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Carrie Forsyth-Russell (also known as Christy Aufdemorte & Christy Aufdemorte-Flaczynski) (Petersburg, IN, Spicewood, TX, Pomona, CA, Austin, TX) for a lifetime of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective May 10, 2024. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Notification of a fine imposed on a club for cancelling entries for conformation

show after the entry closed, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 6.
German Shepherd Dog Club of Austin \$300

Notification of a fine imposed on a performance club for late submission of results *Regulations & Guidelines for AKC Hunting Tests for Spaniels*, Chapter 1, Section 18.
Heart of Texas Spaniel Club..... \$100

Notification of fines imposed on a performance club for late submission of results, *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Beagle Field Trials*, Chapter 8, Section 6
Wurtland Beagle Club \$50
Southeastern Missouri Beagle Club..... \$50
Stittsville Beagle Club..... \$50

Notification of a fine imposed on a performance club for late submission of results, *AKC Herding Regulations, Farm Dog Certified (FDC) Test Regulations*, Chapter 1, Section 17.
San Pasqual Valley Herding Club \$50

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DELEGATE STANDING RULE ON COMMITTEES

The Delegate Coordinating Committee has brought forward the following amendments to be voted on at the June 11, 2024

Delegate Meeting.

I. This rule shall be known as “The Standing Rule on Delegate Committees.”

II. The goals of these committees are:

A. To provide the broad-based independent involvement of the Delegates in matters affecting the dog fancy.

B. To identify and utilize the expertise within the Delegate Body and within the fancy.

III. The Delegates establish the following standing committees and charge them as follows:

Committees have been rearranged in alphabetical order.

A. All-Breed Clubs

1. To share information and procedures useful to All-Breed Clubs.
2. To find ways of making All-Breed Clubs and their events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.

B. Bylaws

1. To review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

C. Canine Health

1. To gather and share with the Delegates scientific information vital to the improvement of Canine Health.
2. To recommend to the Delegates

educational programs, procedures, and research relevant to Canine Health.

D. Companion Events

1. To share information and procedures useful to ~~Obedience, Tracking, Rally and Agility Clubs~~ offering Companion Events.
2. To find ways for ~~helping of making Obedience, Tracking, Rally and Agility Clubs~~ offering Companion Events to make and their events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.
3. Make recommendations on issues affecting Companion Events.

E. Delegate Advocacy and Advancement

1. To review and make recommendations on issues and proposals affecting the future structure of the Delegate Body, Delegate empowerment, changes relating to Delegate meetings and Delegate eligibility.
2. Delegate mentorship and orientation.

F. Dog Show Rules

1. To review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to Dog Show Rules.

G. Field Trial and Hunting Test Events

1. To share ~~information and proce-~~

~~dures useful to clubs holding field trial and hunting test with all local clubs holding field trials and hunting tests current information, procedures, and best practices.~~

~~2. To find ways of making field trial and hunting test clubs and their events more provide help to clubs holding field trials and hunting tests be effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.~~

~~3. To support the role of clubs that hold field trial and hunting test clubs and events in enhancing and preserving the working skills of the breeds involved.~~

H. Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events

1. To share information and procedures useful to the clubs that conduct Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work events.

2. To find ways of making Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work events and the clubs that conduct such events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.

3. To support the role of Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work events and the clubs that conduct these events in enhancing and preserving the working skills of the

breeds involved.

I. Parent Clubs

1. To share information and procedures useful to Parent Clubs.

2. To find ways of making Parent Clubs and Parent Club events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members, their breeds, and their local specialty clubs.

J. Coordinating Committee

1. To determine the scope and jurisdiction of Delegate committees.

2. To establish procedural guidelines for committee operations.

3. To coordinate, control, and facilitate committee request for staff resources and committee expenses.

~~4. To ensure the timely submission of committee annual reports.~~

~~5. To review committee effectiveness and make recommendations.~~

4. To review and approve/support “joint” subcommittees.

IV. The membership of the committees, except for the Coordinating Committee, shall be elected by the Delegates as follows:

A. Elections for standing committees shall be held at the Delegate quarterly meeting in September of each year.

B. Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible to serve as voting members on Delegate committees.

- C.** A Delegate may self-nominate for only one committee.
- D.** Each self-nominated Delegate shall submit to AKC a statement of not more than 150 words indicating his or her qualifications.
- E.** AKC shall furnish to the Delegates, with the call for the meeting at which the election will be held, the list of nominees for each committee, the statements of qualification, the record of attendance at Delegate Meetings, incumbents' attendance records at Delegate Committee Meetings, and the length of tenure of each nominee.
- F.** If the nominations for any committee are equal to or less than the maximum number of committee members to be elected, there shall be no election for that committee and the nominated candidates shall be deemed elected.
- G.** Elections shall be by written ballot at a regular Delegate Meeting.
 1. Those nominees receiving the most votes shall be elected.
 2. If at any annual election the number of nominees would result in a committee of less than five members, that committee shall not function for that year.
 3. Standing committees shall consist of no more than eleven members.
 4. In case of a tie for the last position on any committee, the tie will

be resolved by a standing vote of the Delegates.

V. The committees shall be organized as follows:

- A.** At the conclusion of the Delegate Meeting at which they are elected, each committee shall elect a Chair, Assistant Chair, then a Secretary. Any Committee without an election can reorganize following their Committee Meeting on Committee Day.
- B.** The Coordinating Committee shall be comprised of the Chairs of each of the other Delegate Standing Committees. The Coordinating Committee shall, at its first meeting, elect a Chair, then a Secretary.
- C.** Committee members shall serve terms determined as follows:

1. Upon initial committee election, committees shall be divided into three classes, as follows:

Committee Size	3 yr terms	2 yr terms	1 yr terms
5	2	2	1
6	2	2	2
7	3	2	2
8	3	3	2
9	3	3	3
10	4	3	3
11	4	4	3

2. Thereafter all newly Elected

members will serve three-year terms., unless completing a term of a vacant position.

3. Appointed positions will serve until the next Committee election and must self-nominate to run for election.

D. From time to time, the Delegate Body may establish and charge additional standing committees. Staffing of additional committees will follow the procedure described in *Article IV*.

VI. The Following operating rules shall apply to committees:

A. Committees may, at their discretion, invite non-Delegates to participate in a non-voting capacity.

B. Committees may, at their discretion, seek liaison with Board Members.

C. ~~All committee reports shall be directed to the Delegate Body with copies to the Board of Directors. minutes shall be posted on the Delegate Portal within 30 days following the quarterly meeting.~~

D. ~~An annual written report shall be submitted to the Delegate Body by a date designated by the Coordinating Committee.~~

E. ~~Interim oral or written reports may be submitted by committees at their discretion, or as directed by the Coordinating Committee.~~

D. Committees will consider and

respond to Board requests for input. In instances where a committee is responding to a Board request, their report will go directly to the Board. The Delegate Standing Committees may send letters concerning areas addressed by their Committee to the AKC Board of Directors.

E. No committee shall speak in the name of the Delegates or the American Kennel Club without written approval of the Board of Directors.

F. Each committee shall respect the powers designated to the Board of Directors in Articles IX and X of the Bylaws.

G. All committee meetings shall be open to Delegates as observers only unless recognized by the Chair to contribute to the discussion.

H. Committees shall utilize *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

I. In the absence of both the elected Chair, and the elected Assistant Chair, the committee members present at the meeting shall elect an interim chair., until the official Delegate meeting is adjourned.

J. Three consecutive absences without the approval of the committee chair shall constitute a resignation from that committee.

K. Vacancies on a committee shall be filled, until the next committee elec-

tion, by a vote of the committee.

L. Committees shall meet in conjunction with the quarterly Delegate Meetings. ~~Special meetings may only be held at other times with the prior approval of the Coordinating Committee.~~

M. Committee sign in sheets are at the discretion of Committee Chairs.

VII. None of the above provisions shall be presumed to limit the power of the Board of Directors to appoint committees as specified in Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE BEAGLE

Head: The *skull* should be fairly long, slightly domed at occiput, with cranium broad and full. *Ears*-Ears set on moderately low, long, reaching when drawn out nearly, if not quite, to the end of the nose; fine in texture, fairly broad-with almost entire absence of erectile power-setting close to the head, with the forward edge slightly inturning to the cheek-rounded at tip. *Eyes*-Eyes large, set well apart-soft and houndlike-expression gentle and pleading; of a brown or hazel color. *Muzzle*-Muzzle of medium length-straight and square-cut-the stop moderately defined. *Jaws*-Level. Lips free from flews; nostrils large and open. Defects-A very flat skull, narrow across the top; excess of dome, eyes small, sharp and terrierlike, or prominent and

protruding; muzzle long, snipy or cut away decidedly below the eyes, or very short. Roman-nosed, or upturned, giving a dish-face expression. Ears short, set on high or with a tendency to rise above the point of origin.

Body: *Neck* and Throat-Neck rising free and light from the shoulders strong in substance yet not loaded, of medium length. The throat clean and free from folds of skin; a slight wrinkle below the angle of the jaw, however, may be allowable. Defects-A thick, short, cloddy neck carried on a line with the top of the shoulders. Throat showing dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed "throatiness."

Shoulders and Chest: Shoulders sloping-clean, muscular, not heavy or loaded-conveying the idea of freedom of action with activity and strength. Chest deep and broad, but not broad enough to interfere with the free play of the shoulders. Defects-Straight, upright shoulders. Chest disproportionately wide or with lack of depth.

Back, Loin and Ribs: Back short, muscular and strong. Loin broad and slightly arched, and the ribs well sprung, giving abundance of lung room. Defects-Very long or swayed or roached back. Flat, narrow loin. Flat ribs.

Forelegs and Feet: Forelegs-Straight, with plenty of bone in proportion to size of the hound. Pasterns short and straight. Feet-Close, round and firm. Pad full and hard. Defects-Out at elbows. Knees knuckled over forward, or bent backward. Forelegs crooked or Dachshund-like. Feet long, open or spreading.

Hips, Thighs, Hind Legs and Feet: Hips and thighs strong and well muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent. Feet close and firm. Defects-Cowhocks, or straight hocks. Lack of muscle and propelling power. Open feet.

Tail: Set moderately high; carried gaily, but not turned forward over the back; with slight curve; short as compared with size of the hound; with brush. Defects-A long *tail*. Teapot curve or inclined forward from the root. Rat tail with absence of brush.

Coat: A close, hard, hound coat of medium length. Defects-A short, thin coat, or of a soft quality.

Color: Any allowed hound color. Merle and brindle color patterns are not acceptable and shall be disqualified.

General Appearance: A miniature

Foxhound, solid and big for his inches, with the wear-and-tear look of the hound that can last in the chase and follow his quarry to the death.

Scale of Points

Head

Skull	5	
Ears	10	
Eyes	5	
Muzzle	5	25

Body

Neck	5	
Chest and Shoulders	15	
Back, Loin and Ribs	15	35

Running Gear

Forelegs	10	
Hips, Thighs and Hind legs	10	
Feet	10	30
Coat	5	
Stern	5	10

Total **100**

Varieties: There shall be two varieties: Thirteen Inch-which shall be for hounds not exceeding 13 inches in height. Fifteen Inch-which shall be for hounds over 13 but not exceeding 15 inches in height.

Disqualifications:

Any hound measuring more than 15 inches shall be disqualified.

Merle and Brindle Color Patterns.

Packs of Beagles

Score of Points for Judging

Hounds

General Levelness of Pack	40%
Individual Merit of Hounds	<u>30%</u> 70%
Manners	20%
Appointments	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Levelness of Pack: The first thing in a pack to be considered is that they present a unified appearance. The hounds must be as near to the same height, weight, conformation and color as possible.

Individual Merit of the Hounds: Is the individual bench-show quality of the hounds. A very level and sporty pack can be gotten together and not a single hound be a good Beagle. This is to be avoided.

Manners: The hounds must all work gaily and cheerfully, with flags up-obeying all commands cheerfully. They should be broken to heel up, kennel up, follow promptly and stand. Cringing, sulking, lying down to be avoided. Also, a pack must not work as though in terror of master and whips. In Beagle packs it is recommended that the whip be used as

little as possible.

Appointments: Master and whips should be dressed alike, the master or huntsman to carry horn the whips and master to carry light thong whips. One whip should carry extra couplings on shoulder strap.

Recommendations for Show Livery:

Black velvet cap, white stock, green coat, white breeches, or knickerbockers, green or black stockings, white spats, black or dark brown shoes. Vest and gloves optional. Ladies should turn out exactly the same except for a white skirt instead of white breeches.

Approved May 10, 2024

Effective July 30, 2024

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspon-

dence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory.

Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified *but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.*

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Meghan Barnes (113020) OH

(740) 973-7470

omegambt@gmail.com

Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers

Michelle Lee Ricklets Cazett (115431) IA

(641) 521-5032

atpbulldogs@gmail.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Alleyne Dickens (115507) VA

(804) 366-3351

bonheurbelgiantervuren@gmail.com

Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens, JS

Gina Hayden (115521) CO

(661) 301-8430

ginahayden111@gmail.com

Salukis

Kelly Leonard (11922) MI

(734) 846-8015

kleonard734@gmail.com

American Foxhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, JS

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Bree Ardizzone-Sulewski (98661) WI

(315) 481-1107

bardizzone315@gmail.com

Shetland Sheepdogs

Maria Arechaederra (110565) CA

(949) 981-7646

ederrakuv@aol.com

Dogo Argentinos, Great Pyrenees, Newfoundlanders, Rottweilers, Samoyeds, Glen of Imaal Terriers

Ms. Shira Lee Barkon (108315) PA

(610) 587-5542

snocrest1@gmail.com

Akitas, Black Russian Terriers, Chinooks, Tibetan Mastiffs

Ms. Nichole Bartlett (108924) AZ

(952) 215-6803

brandsbmw@yahoo.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, Dachshunds, Otterhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Douglas Broadfoot (96999) NC

broadstrider@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds

Kimberly Cardona (110939) FL

(407) 460-0089

vomdrakkenfels@gmail.com
Black Russian Terriers, Cane Corsos,
Great Danes

Mrs. Dawn Cox (97685) PA

(717) 965-5971
dawncox215@gmail.com
Alaskan Malamutes

Mrs. Pam Davis (95305) PA

(610) 564-8401
davispcjg@aol.com
Russell Terriers

Mr. William DeVilleneuve (4244) NY

(631) 586-3376
duffdescots@aol.com
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Blood-
hounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Ven-
deens, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds,
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) FL

(330) 421-3618
pennyd1954@gmail.com
American English Coonhounds, Redbone
Coonhounds, Sloughi

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS

(410) 829-2455
bethdowney539@gmail.com
Redbone Coonhounds, Bichons Frises,
Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Dalma-
tians, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Nor-
wegian Lundehunds, Poodles, Tibetan
Spaniels

Mrs. Nancy Eilks (23143) WI

(920) 650-2299
eilks@gdinet.com

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers,
American Water Spaniels, English Cocker
Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Irish
Water Spaniels

Cathy Eke (101345) IN

(317) 695-2829
onlybdogs@aol.com
Bernese Mountain Dogs

Mr. Edward A. Fojtik (104757) IL

(847) 256-6166
efojtik@aol.com
Lagotti Romagnoli, Curly-Coated Retrie-
vers, American Water Spaniels, Cocker
Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Weimaraners

Mr. Rick Fowler (105295) TX

(214) 914-9335
richf45882@aol.com
Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire
Fox Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manches-
ter Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

Mrs. Dawn L. Gabig (103897) NC

(660) 342-6555
dawngababig@gmail.com
Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois,
Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens,
Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish
Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Mudik

Mr. Duff M. Harris (91790) CA

(714) 425-0454
allegro6@ix.netcom.com
Cane Corsos, Greater Swiss Mountain
Dogs, Leonbergers, Newfoundlands,
Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint Bernards,
Standard Schnauzers

Ms. Cindy Hartwell (104985) FL

(207) 751-0047

cindy@mybeauce.com

Lowchen, Border Collies, German Shepherd Dogs

Dr. Vandra L. Huber (6857) WA

(425) 881-5809

vlhuber.88@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Betsy Horn Humer (5156) VA

(757)442-3672

tiderunr2@verizon.net

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear, Lowchen, Tibetan Spaniels

Ms. Karen Hynek (35536) MO

(636)219-6991

jokaregs@aol.com

Border Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norwich Terriers, Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

M. Patricia Joyce (101483) GA

(770) 596-8665

patjoyce1@att.net

Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Skye Terriers

Ms. Diane Kepley (90370) SC

dkk9judge@gmail.com

Australian Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Russell

Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Rosalind Kramer (37191) NC

(703) 975-6260

rlkramer1@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Mr. Dale R. Martenson (111413) OK

(817) 517-3304

castlemar3@hotmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Havanese, Manchester Terriers, Pugs), Lhasa Apsos

Dr. Camille McArdle (66682) MN

(612) 743-7329

camillemca@gmail.com

Boerboels, Chinooks, Komondorok, Leonbergers

Mr. Michael L. Savage (111869) WA

(509) 999-1800

irishbrook@yahoo.com

Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Ms. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA

(778) 834-0059

pam@schroeder.bc.ca

Great Pyrenees

Mrs. Vicki Seiler-Cushman (100265) OH

(513) 638-1585

seilerva@yahoo.com

Balance of Herding Group (Australian Cattle Dogs, Bearded Collies, Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Briards, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heelers, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO

(303) 548-1125

catalinakennels@yahoo.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Berger Picards, Border Collies, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Old English Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pumik

Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. (6347) CA

(609) 351-3647

danieljsmythesq@aol.com

Bracci Italiani, Brittanys, Pointers, Irish Setters, Sussex Spaniels, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Angela Stevanus (112189) CA

(951) 640-6819

angeldotz@yahoo.com

Border Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, American Eskimo Dogs, Chow Chows

Mr. Gregory Szynskie (46166) CO

(303) 807-3768

gszynskie@comcast.net

Rottweilers

Marilyn Vam Vleit (67040) OR

(503) 510-1332

mvanvleit@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (Cirnechi dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds)

Mr. Tad Walden (64597) CO

(720) 273-0494

waldent@earthlink.net

German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Weimaraners

Ms. Kathy L. Wilkins (6799) GA

(770) 315-4452

lochlynfarm@gmail.com

Berger Picards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Lancashire Heelers, Miniature American Shepherds

Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

(512) 280-3103

wilscot@sbcglobal.net

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Pekingese, Poodles)

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING

APPLICANTS

Mrs. Tami Rose Bradford (110125) TN

(865)680-8264

sibemom2002@gmail.com

Miss Rylee Carlon (115557) WA

rcarlon@live.com

**Mrs. Blair Aguillard Commisso
(95685) LA**

absoluteast@gmail.com

Dr. Cassidy Jackson (115583) CA

dr.jacksondvm@yahoo.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept assignments* and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Marie Glodowski (114409) MI

(734) 626-3131

ishowdogs@hotmail.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks, JS

Jill C. Hootman (114721) TN

(931) 216-7385

tealcrst@gmail.com

Boxers

Mr. David Roberts (110787) NC

(919) 637-1003

droberts6559@yahoo.com

Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels,
Bichons Frises, JS-Limited

Mr. Nathaniel Whitney (95889) NV

(727) 871-8940

nkwhitey3@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Anne Barlow (18397) TX

(512) 423-4500

anne78736@yahoo.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Irish Setters,
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mrs. Jennifer U. Bell (109179) LA

(225) 933-6132

mystang50@yahoo.com

Black Russian Terriers, Cane Corsos,
Dogo Argentinos, Siberian Huskies, Stan-
dard Schnauzers

Mrs. Terrie Breen (65930) CT

(860) 285-0499

brenta@aol.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Papil-
lons, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Philip R. Briasco (66406) FL

(352) 427-6992

aranisle@cfl.rr.com

Labrador Retrievers, Rottweilers

Mrs. Anna May Fleischli Brown (6300) IL

(217) 415-2176

stedelweis@aol.com

Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles
Spaniels, Japanese Chins

Joseph Buchanan (104137) PA

(610) 931-3670

kennelaleema@gmail.com

Basset Hounds, Beagles, Sloughi

Ms. JoAnne M. Buehler (22770) FL

(301) 590-9056

joanneb@his.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr. Mustapha El Khorchi (110865) FL

(561) 460-0461

musta@leongolden.com

Barbets, Labrador Retrievers, Irish Red and White Setters, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Julie Felten (17972) IL

(847) 452-6902

jacfelten@aol.com

Affenpinschers, Russian Toys

Mrs. Janet Fink (6374) CA

(909) 307-9778

janetfink@verizon.net

Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Linda George (100634) WI

(414) 530-4783

ouachitah@aol.com

Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Pugs

Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT

(626) 327-2311

doggone1@mindspring.com

Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Cocker Spaniels

Elizabeth F. Greenfield (65122) NY

(315) 363-0012

grnelzb@aol.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Marlene Groves (108243) CO

(303) 621-1111

marlene@buffalogroves.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets

Mrs. Sandra Pretsari Hickson (50017) CA

(650) 346-9912

sandra.pretarihickson@gmail.com

Bedlington Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Skye Terriers

Deborah A. Hubbard (102869) RI

(401) 398-8147

deb@fridaygoldens.com

Flat Coated Retrievers

Mr. Mark Francis Jaeger (6583) MI

(517) 351-0412

mark@markfrancisjaeger.com

Maltese

Mr. Douglas A. Johnson (17190) IN

(812) 322-0322

clusexx@aol.com

American Hairless Terriers, Australian Terriers, Border Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Karen Justin (64864) NY

(845) 726-3437

impyrial@aol.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Samoyeds

Mrs. Elaine J. Lessig (7626) NJ

(908) 568-5155
melessig@att.net
Tibetan Mastiffs

Mrs. Carol A. Makowski (18958) CO

(303) 665-9007
bristleconeassets@yahoo.com
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Mr. Neil McDevitt (91600) OH

(937) 371-8249
nmcdevitt1@woh.rr.com
Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Lagotti
Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooiker-
hondjes, Curly-Coated Retrievers,
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wire-
haired Vizslas

Mr. Dale Meyer (6655) WI

(715) 654-5330
meyerd@tds.net
Balance of Sporting Group (Nederlandse
Kooikerhondjes, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers,
Flat Coated Retrievers, Weimaraners,
Wirehaired Vizslas)

Ms. Sandra Moore (40375) TN

(931) 867-8102
avalonborzoi@benlomand.net
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

Laura Munro (101581) CA

(916) 768-5175
laura@daneaffaire.com
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

Mrs. Linda Riedel (2775) WA

(509) 547-4823

ramblewood.ess@gmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group
(Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear)

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693
yogi@mtaonline.net
Cane Corsos, German Pinschers, Mas-
tiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Standard
Schnauzers

Mrs. Cathine E. Urner (107392) PA

(484) 252-9263
cat@voncharmdanes.com
French Bulldogs

Ms. Anna M. Vaughn (102565) OK

(918) 906-3776
anna@cme-usa.com
Bracchi Italiani, German Shorthaired
Pointers, Golden Retrievers, English Set-
ters, Gordon Setters, Irish Red and White
Setters, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas

Mr. Joseph R. Vernuccio (96251) CT

(203) 829-2428
joevernuccio@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, English
Toy Spaniels, Maltese, Pekingese, York-
shire Terriers

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768
outlawgwp@aol.com
Affenpinschers, Chihuahuas, English Toy
Spaniels

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Abimael Arroyo (114893) AZ

(520) 339-3398

blancax6@icloud.com

Mrs. Shawna Darlene Arroyo (114879) AZ

(520) 440-8400

sublimebulldogs@msn.com

Mrs. Beverly Hofschulte (114897) MN

(507) 272-4162

madeecavaliers@gmail.com

Ms. Kristen (Kris) Hurley (115021) OK

(405) 245-2107

dancingbeagle@gmail.com

Miss Camila Granata Rosental (114881)

Argentina

camilagranata@gmail.com

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, have successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved** have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Ms. Mary Faeth (101477) CA

(530) 210-7791

spinfandel@yahoo.com

CONFORMATION JUDGE:

RESIGNED BREED

The judge below has notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Mr. James S. Albrecht

Whippets

CONFORMATION JUDGES: RESIGNED BREED OR JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

The judges below have notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Mr. Michael D. Buckley

Junior Showmanship

Dana Cline

Junior Showmanship

Ms. Sheila Polk

Junior Showmanship

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Sanda Launey

Ms. JoAnne Schullier

Mrs. Stacy Threlfall

Joyce Van Kirk

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Lee Brown

Mrs. Ellie Carson

Mrs. Nancy Lee Coombs

Mr. Whitney Coombs

Dr. John F. Davidson

Dr. Donald A. Gill

Ms. Barbara Langlois

Mrs. Carol Tobin Murray

Mrs. Jacqueline M. Rayner

Judith Ann Smith

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Kathryn A. Cowsert

Mrs. Debra Dawe

Mrs. Jean Simmonds

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of **regular approved** judges for the class indicated.

Miss Lynn A Currie (72929) VA

(631) 495-3983
aglgsgdbc@gmail.com

Obedience – Utility

Dr. Brenda Riemer (104082) MI

(734) 474-8900
thyminator@yahoo.com

Obedience – Open

Terry Thornton (Z9697) NM

(214) 405-9871
amigoldretrievers@yahoo.com

Obedience - Utility

NEW PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a **Provisional** basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. **They may now accept assignments**

Dr. Lizanne Kaiser (104081) CA

(510) 829-9708
mrfiacra@yahoo.com

Obedience – Utility

Gail Katz (107964) CA

(626) 253-0060
smlact@aol.com

Rally – All

Kimberlee B. Beckmen (113297) AK

(907) 322-2384
kbeckmen@gmail.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

Debra Gillis (102711) AK

(907) 346-3147
debgds@yahoo.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

Marina Caro (TN)

Rally

DECEASED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

John Cox (WA)

Obedience

REGISTERED HANDLERS

Letters concerning registered handlers and handler applicants should be addressed to the Handlers Department at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617.

The American Kennel Club will at the request of a registered handler applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their handling qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available upon request, to the registered handler or handler applicant.

It is the responsibility of all registered handlers to notify the Handlers Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your handlers record, the Web site and the Handlers Directory. Please notify the Handlers Department at (919) 816-3884 or Email handlers@akc.org

NEW REGISTERED HANDLER APPLICANTS

The following person has submitted an application for the Registered Handler Program.

Ms. Michelle Wolcott

970 Chateau Drive
Conway, SC 29526

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club.

BLUE MOON- Parson Russell Terriers-
John R. Conley & Loree A. Conley

BLUERAIN- Australian Shepherds-
Michelle D. Bredael & Gary L. Roberson

CALEE-Shuh Tzu- Cora Lee Helfrich

DESERT OASIS- Newfoundlands- Terre
C. Tripoli

DOIBLE TALK- Doberman Pinschers-
Laura R. Clawson

HEIRLOOM- Mastiffs- Debi D. Flocchini

HIGH ROYAL- Cane Corso- Sarah J.
McClelland

JOVAL- Brussels Griffons- Valeria Rickard
& John W. Rickard

KISHNIGA- Borzoi- Patti M. Fitzgerald

MEIWU- Chinese Shar Pei – Lisa McDaniel

MILLS RUN- Boston Terriers-Charlotte A.
Mills & Hadsel K. Mills

PAINTERLY- Manchester Terriers- Catherine
Masters

SOUTHWIND- Great Danes- Melody A
Wieth

SWEETHAVEN- Papillons- Teresa L.
Wilkinson

SUNVAL- Chinese Cresteds- Gina Crawley
& Christopher Crawley

SUNVAL-Poodles- Gina Crawley & Christopher
Crawley

WHITBY JET-Flat Coated Retrievers-
Deborah L. Sandoval

WINGNUT- Labrador Retrievers-Rodney
R. Glenn

WILD WEST- Border Collies- Laurie A.
Ceccareli

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.

COLDWIND-Siberian Huskies- Wendy
Heider

CROWN O'CURLS- Tsvetnaya Bolonka-
Catherine M. Woods

DACKELBROOK-Dachshunds- Laurie Ermentrout
FIREWATER'S- Labrador Retrievers- LaDanna K. Bostwick
INTUITION-Shih Tzu- Kristie L. Miller & Rocky Miller
HIGHLAND DOWNS- Parson Russell Terriers-Rita C. Ford
KALAHARI-Leonbergers- Julia Brady
MARTONE EDEN- Norfolk Terriers- Mary J. Sweany & Tony R. Sweany
M.N.M. -Bulldogs- Lori A. Mendygral
NORTH FORK-Malissa Mellen
PAGEANTRY-Poodles- Chrystal R. Striegel
SHAKERS-German Shepherd Dogs- Betty J. McDermott
SPIEGELHOF-German Shepherd Dogs & Rottweilers- Sandy Akhtar
SZEGI HAUS-German Shepherd Dogs- Geneveieve P. Scegi & Alexandra L. Szegi
TIER 1-Staffordshire Bull Terriers-Dr. Keith Nichols & Angela D. Nichols
VALOR-Bernese Mountain Dogs-Victoria Pinkas



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY
MAY 9-10, 2024

The Board convened on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the April 8-9, 2024, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board voted to approve the April 2024 Board Meeting minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Registration

Litter, individual, and foreign registrations are running at about 2018 levels, indicating that dog demand continues to be down following the pandemic surge. The rates of decline over the last year in several registration metrics appear to have flattened and we expect to see some improvements in

Year-over-year trends by Q3. Our emphasis continues to be on registration marketing and operational cost control.

Sports & Events

Outstanding results thru first quarter:

- Events plus 698 up 14% led by Conformation, the new fetch sport and NOHS.
- Entries plus 39,624 or 5% led by increases in Scent Work 12k+, Conformation 7,936, Agility/Rally/Fetch each over 4k.

Media

Season 4 of the AKC podcast Down and Back: "Stories from the American Kennel Club Archives" premieres May 9, 2024.

The podcast launched in June 2020 and is available on all major podcasting platforms. <https://www.akc.org/about/down-and-back-akc-podcast/>.

The show delves into the stories of breeds, dogs, and personalities that have shaped America's Dog Sports over generations, connecting the history of dog sports with the modern day, and highlighting how the AKC has impacted the lives of dogs over the past 140 years.

Each eight-part season brings the stories to

life using historical records, archival material, oral histories, interviews, and more.

The podcast format was chosen because it's aligned with a younger audience, including Millennials and Gen Z.

Episodes cover a range of topics, including "Dogs: Stars of Myth, Legend, and Folklore" and "How Does a Dog Breed Become Recognized by AKC?"

The podcast's content is researched in part by the AKC Library and Archives, which is the only national repository dedicated to the sport and enjoyment of the purebred dog.

- To date: 49,366 IAB-verified downloads / 89,009 unique downloads.
- Most popular episodes:
 - "Morris & Essex: The Quintessential Dog Show" (Season 2)
 - "The Emergence of Dog Obedience in America" (Season 1; debut episode)
 - "Poodles: A Marvel of Intelligence and Versatility" (Season 3)

AKC Board Committee Charters

The AKC Board has six (6) Committees: 1) Audit; 2) Finance; 3) Retirement Plans; 4) Investment; 5) Compensation; and 6) Appeal. The Board reviewed the recommended Committee Charters for each Board Committee, including an updated

Audit Committee Charter.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

AKC Reunite Update

Tom Sharp, AKC Reunite CEO presented an update. Reunite has enhanced product offerings, including new scanners for shelters with a pole antenna, a new mini chip that is good for cats and small dogs with smooth coats, and an upgrade to the collar tag sold with a QR code to take you directly to Reunite. A collar is also sold that can be used instead of a collar tag, and a new scanner will be offered that is much lower in cost that scans only ISO chips.

Giving

Since 2002, over \$14 million has been donated to the US Pet Community, and over \$2.4 million in pet-related disaster preparedness/relief grants. 4681 microchip scanners have been donated to shelters.

AKC Reunite has donated 110 Pet Disaster Relief Trailers, and 11 new trailers are in the pipeline. A total of \$2,597,151 has been donated to the trailer program.

Adopt a Canine Cop

200 grants are being given this year. To date, 622 grants have been provided with

\$4 million in donations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of April 2024.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited financial results as of March 31, 2024.

Net Operating Income is \$2.2 million.

Non-Financial Statistics for the three months ended March 31, 2024

Registrations: 2024 YTD Litter Registration is 3% lower than budget and 17% lower than 2023 YTD.

2024 YTD Dog Registration is trailing the budget by 10% and is 15% lower than 2023 YTD.

Events & Entries

Events were 14% ahead, and Entries were 5% higher compared to the same period in 2023.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary;

Brandi Hunter Munden, Vice President of Communications and Public Relations; Seth Fera-Schanes, Director of Strategic Planning; and Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sport Services, participated in this portion of the meeting. Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations, Penny Leigh, Director of Registration Development, and Kassandra Pickle, Business Intelligence, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

AKC Agility League New Skill Level

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to add a new skill level, Elementary, to the Agility League program, which will be geared towards pre-competition dogs.

There were also requests to add Puerto Rico to the list of participating regions, grouped with the Southeastern Region, and change the scoring to allow all dogs to drop their two lowest scores of each season.

If approved, these changes will be effective with the launch of the Fall 2024 season.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Breed Standard Guidelines Revisions

The AKC Board requested that Staff propose a revision to the *Guidelines for Writing Breed Standard Procedures* to include a

minimum timeframe for revisions of a similar or same topic to be submitted if a revision failed to be approved by the membership.

Staff's initial recommend is to make the minimum time frame for making a similar proposed revision a minimum of one year if the same or similar topic fails a vote of the membership.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

2024 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the March 2025 election must be appointed by August 15, 2024, and its report must be received no later than October 15, 2024. For the last four years, the appointment was made in July; the previous year, the Committee was appointed in August.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® - Blue Picardy Spaniel

The Foundation Stock Service (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Blue Picardy Spaniel to be accepted into the FSS Program.

The Blue Picardy Spaniel is a versatile sporting dog used for locating and retrieving game under the most adverse conditions. It is a direct descendant of the French

Spaniels. There are approximately 15 dogs in the United States that are eligible for recording with FSS.

AKC Communications Q1 Report Totals:
Clips Evaluated in Q1: 11,263 (+23% from 9,162 in 2023)

Q1 Totals Comparison

Year	Clips Evaluated
2021	8,937
2022	8,919
2023	9,162
2024	11,263

Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:

- Ongoing media pitching executed to key audiences with stories that speak to positive qualities of AKC pure-breds and breeders. Distributed 16 press releases to appropriate media outlets.
- Continued raising the visibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer as an expert in an increasing number of media requests.
- Planned and executed the PR campaign for the Most Popular Dogs announcement which included a broadcast exclusive on Good Morning America, an online exclusive with the Associated Press and a special episode of AKC.tv's Good Dog TV which took place in AKC's NYC

headquarters. Drafted and distributed press releases for major markets across the country. In addition, we secured a segment on Good Day NY for New York City's most popular breeds. The campaign garnered more than 6,000 clips.

- Estimated reach for each outlet:
 - Good Morning America broadcast: 2,846,014
 - Associated Press: 42,286,388 (total readership)
 - Good Day NY: 73,173
- Continued the PR campaign for the 2024 AKC Meet the Breeds® tour, including aggressive media outreach for pre-coverage and attendance, advertising, and on-site media wrangling for the New York event. Coverage included WPIX-11, Time Out NY, New York Post, Yahoo!, Fast Company, and more.
- Conducted media outreach for AKC's 201st breed, the Lancashire Heeler, including an exclusive with the Associated Press.

Government Relations (GR) Update First Quarter 2024

Sheila Goffe highlighted numerous active priority legislation and administrative regulations in Congress and State Legislation. She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action cen-

ter microsite: <https://www.akcgr.org>.

The AKC GR team is currently monitoring approximately 1,600 legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club.

To date, we have published more than 100 legislative alerts delivered via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents, the AKC GR legislative action center, and social media.

AKC GR is also monitoring approximately 400 actively pending proposed regulations (administrative or implementing changes to dog laws) at the state and federal levels.

AKC GR communicates to dog owners, club members, lawmakers and the public via geo-targeted and online legislative alerts as well as Facebook, Twitter and other social media; The Taking Command (monthly advocacy) and In Session (policy) newsletters. (<https://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/government-relations/newsletters/>).

Legislation

In the first quarter of 2024, GR monitored approximately 1,350 bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog own-

ers, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club. This number includes newly introduced bills as well as those carried over from the 2023-2024 legislative sessions.

GR prepared and published over 90 geo-targeted legislative alerts and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers or written and/or oral testimony for more than 80 measures. This volume of advocacy is in line with 2023 (GR published approximately 100 alerts in Q1 2023).

As in 2023, the largest proportion of state legislation monitored in Q1 of 2024 was related to “cruelty” (15%). In many cases, measures that expand requirements, restrictions or licensing for dog breeders fall into this category, as “breeder cruelty” are cited by proponents of breeding restrictions. Similarly, many cruelty bills include references to or restrictions on breeding. The most common topics of legislation covered in the first quarter were: working dogs (11%), Land use/hunting (11%), animal control (10%), veterinary (9%), Dogs in public (8%), Breed specific laws and dangerous dogs (6%). A wide variety of other topics were also considered.

Several trends or areas of particular interest included: New breeder licensing and regulation (including measures related to

possible inclusion in the federal farm bill); Legislative attacks on breed characteristics as “unhealthy”; expansion or weaponization of administrative authority/ oversight related to dogs; due process/forfeiture, and new licensing requirements for rescues.

Administrative/Implementing Regulations

AKC GR also tracks administrative (implementing) regulations and rule changes impacting dogs. Through April 22, 2024, AKC GR is monitoring 403 active regulatory proposals: 55 from the federal government and 348 from the state level. Unlike legislation, which is subject to change through advocacy to elected office holders, administrative regulations guide the implementation of rules for which an agency already has statutory authority. Citizen impact on administrative rules is accomplished primarily through a public comment period, after which agency administrators determine how to administer rules most effectively in keeping with statutory requirements.

It was noted that AKC had received notice from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the previous day about the imminent publication of a final rule for which AKC had provided alerts and comment during the public comment period in 2023. The new rule pertains to the import of cats and dogs into the United States and seeks to address serious health threats from

the importation of dogs potentially carrying DMRVV (canine rabies) and health threats. It also seeks to address widespread fraud related to the import of puppies into the U.S. Advance notice of the final rule indicates that after August 1, 2024, no dog may be imported into the U.S. unless it is at least 6 months of age. It also provides new requirements for importing dogs – defined as any entrance of a dog into the U.S. regardless of origin or previous/current domicile including the U.S. – based on whether they have been in a country in the previous 6 months that harbors a risk for DMRVV (canine rabies).

Numerous other major projects were carried out in the first quarter including: the launching of a new GR microsite, the AKC Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org; numerous advocacy trips and meetings at state capitols and the US Capitol; presentations to clubs and federations; and recognition of more than 70 state and local lawmakers as honorary chairs for the AKC Meet the Breeds® event.

AKC Detection Dog Task Force Update

Sheila Goffe presented an update, which highlighted the following:

The purpose of the AKC Detection Dog Task Force (AKC DDTF) Purpose is to study specific areas in which the AKC

could help address the crisis of a shortage of high-quality explosives detection dogs for U.S. national and public security while also advancing recognition of AKC as a preeminent authority on canines.

The three areas of focus are Public Policy, GR Raising Awareness, and Breeder Education. In Public Policy, active advocacy is used to impact government policy, expand preferences for U.S.- bred dogs, improve funding and streamline government purchasing practices. A current focus is the Legislation to assure the health and welfare of military working dogs and funding for the National Detector Dog Training Center run by the USDA in Georgia. To raise public and industry awareness, AKC DDTF has:

- Held over 20 Detection Dog Task Force webinars with over 1500 participants. These webinars bring together government, industry, breeders/raisers, other stakeholders and the public.
- Created the AKC Confident Puppy e-learning course, leverages content from subject matter experts and the Patriotic puppy program to help anyone raise a confident puppy that can go on to be a working dog, a competition dog or a great pet. More than 3500 people have participated in the program to date.
- Established The Detection Dog Bul-

letin, a quarterly newsletter just completed its first year of publication.

- The fifth AKC National Detection Dog Conference, July 23-25, 2024 in Wilmington, Ohio. The conference has its own website for information and registration: <https://www.akcdetectiondogconference.org/>

The Patriotic Puppy Program, which started as a pilot program to provide hands on assistance to detection dog breeders and raisers, is now in phase 3. In phase 2, the program has demonstrated that AKC breeders can breed and raise high quality detection dogs to assist the crucial national security need for these dogs. Emphasis is now on helping participants scale up their operations for greater reliability and consistency to improve opportunities and benefits to participants so their activities can be sustainable over the long term.

Mentoring programs with industry leaders have brought breeders and vendors together for mutually beneficial cooperation. New regional, in-person workshops for training and evaluation teach participants new skills and offer the opportunity for buyers to assess potential dogs for purchase.

Currently, there are more than 160 participants in 40 states, and 89 Patriotic Puppy

dogs are in final agency training or have deployed as working dogs. Patriotic Puppy graduates are serving on a wide range of security deployments, including with the Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Capitol Police, and numerous state and local law enforcement agencies.

On May 1, National Purebred Dog Day, Sheila Goffe and Christopher Sweetwood, co-chair, AKC DDTF presented the AKC Canine Officer Program appreciation award to the U.S. Capitol Police K-9 Unit at the U.S. Capitol. Approximately two-thirds of the elite K-9 Unit (40 officers) attended the ceremony, along with U.S. Capitol Police Chief Manger, Deputy Chief Erikson, and Lt. Stori, plus three of five Patriotic Puppy Program graduates who are now working for the U.S. Capitol Police K-9 Unit.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing participated in this portion of the meeting.

Staff presented a memo summarizing the Board's request for the cost associated with a brand campaign launch in 2024 and additional Staff needs in email and social to support an enhanced brand awareness

campaign.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports and Events, participated in this portion of the meeting. Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events; Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility; and Dr. Mary Burch, Director of the AKC Family Dog Program, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Agility International Sweepstakes Class Awards

Staff presented a change to the Agility Regulations to allow for the colors of ribbons and rosettes, if awarded in International Sweepstakes Classes, to be at the trial giving clubs discretion.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

Regulation Clarifications for Course D - Herding

Staff presented a recommendation to provide additional clarifications to Chapter 8, which covers Course D of the AKC Herding Regulations. These clarifications will provide more specific information about the herding work required for this course,

which will benefit our judges when scoring each performance. They will also allow exhibitors to gain more technical information about what will be required to earn a qualifying score. The recommendation also includes permitting cattle as livestock.

The following highlights those areas to be amended:

- Expands livestock for Course D to include cattle and provides a detailed description of the type of cattle used
- Encourages clubs to mix up obstacles/elements to keep experiences new and unpredictable.
- Provides greater clarification on scoring.
- There has been a slight adjustment to the maximum points earned so that all elements count equally and are easier to tabulate across all levels.
- Provides greater clarity to judges when making point deductions by providing specific point ranges for each element. It also clarifies that a course may only be used once per event number and may not be used by the same club or clubs trialing at the same location for three months.
- Clarification on the size of obstacles and pens to accommodate cattle as well as height minimum.
- Clarification for judges and exhibitors when off-course occurs.
- Provides more specific differentiation of levels for some required and optional

elements.

- Makes it clear that where not specified, the Course Director determines differentiation.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

AKC FIT DOG Program Update

The FIT DOG program continues to interest many dog owners who have not previously participated in AKC sports. AKC FIT DOG is a positive program that demonstrates AKC's interest in promoting healthy, happy dogs and the health benefits dogs bring to their owners. AKC launched its FIT DOG program as an activity in the Family Dog Department in September 2018.

AKC FIT DOG clubs were started in February 2019. This is the AKC version of a "meet-up group." Each club receives an AKC FIT DOG banner with its club name. Currently, there are 1,441 AKC FIT DOG clubs that meet regularly for group walks.

The FIT DOG titling program was launched in January 2023. The three levels of AKC FIT DOG titles (Bronze, Silver, Gold) are systematically sequenced with each level requiring greater frequency and distances. In 2023, 9,206 AKC FIT DOG titles were earned. (5,534 Bronze, 2,428 Silver, and 1,244 Gold titles).

In early 2024, a survey was conducted in order to better understand FIT DOG title holders. Key findings were:

1. 85% of the participants earned an AKC title after earning the first (Bronze) AKC FIT DOG title.
2. The Board has previously discussed the importance of reaching out to empty nesters to get them involved in AKC activities. 55% of AKC FIT DOG title holders are in the age range of empty nesters.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events and Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services participated in this portion of the meeting. Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support; Alan Slay, Director of Event Programs, and Mark Desrosiers, Director of Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Entry Limit Appeal - Dubuque and Wisconsin Kennel Clubs

The Board reviewed the Dubuque Kennel Club and Wisconsin Kennel Club appeals to Event Operations' entry limits and requirements for club future shows. The appeal is to the AKC Board of Directors in accordance with **Article X, Section 4** of the *AKC Charter and Bylaws*.

The Events Operations Department notified the Dubuque and Wisconsin Kennel Clubs on March 6, 2024, that an entry limit of 1900 dogs and a maximum of no more than 15 concurrent or evening specialties per day had been imposed on their events held on week eight (8) of AKC's corresponding date calendar at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin. The limits imposed on the Dubuque and Wisconsin Kennel Club are consistent with AKC policy, which assigns the Event Operations Department the authority to impose entry limits if a site has limited space or upon the recommendation of an AKC Executive Field Representative (AKC Show Manual), and to determine the maximum number of independent specialties that may be held (Concurrent Specialty Shows Policy).

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (Affirmative: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Fineburg, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, Powers Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin, Abstention: Smyth) to deny the appeals of the Dubuque Kennel Club and Wisconsin Kennel Club.

Championships - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 16, Section 2

The Board reviewed a recommendation by

the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to revise **Chapter 16, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to award championship points to a class dog awarded Reserve Best in Show, calculated as the highest number of points awarded in any breed from all groups excluding that from which Best in Show advanced.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

NOHS Regulation Updates

The Board reviewed a recommendation to update the NOHS Regulations to adjust the regulations regarding who may judge and to allow clubs the option to offer three-time win prizes.

Current Regulations do not allow a judge to judge a NOHS group on the same day they are judging the identical regular group. This creates a hardship for clubs holding two shows in one day with a limited number of judges to complete the assignments. Staff recommends changing regulations to restrict a judge to a show:

NOHS Regulations, Section 4: Judges Eligibility

- A judge cannot be assigned the NOHS Group on the same day at the same show they are assigned that same group for the all-breed/limited-breed show.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Memphis Kennel Club

The Memphis Kennel Club (MKC) is requesting the AKC Board grant them an extension on the exception to the 125-mile distance a club may travel to hold a show policy granted by the Board in 2022. Memphis is requesting to continue holding events in Lebanon, TN, 221 miles from Memphis, TN.

In 2022, the Board approved Memphis to hold all-breed events beyond the 125-mile travel distance in 2023 and 2024.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Event Conflict Distance Policy

An action item emanating from the Board's April 2024 meeting directed Staff to provide the Board at its May 2024 meeting with an explanation of the 200-mile conflict policy for events, how a club may appeal events that conflict due to distance, who reviews such an appeal, and how the distance between events is stored and calculated.

In July 2021, the Board approved a policy that provides clubs with the option to appeal to Staff event date/site conflicts when the driving mileage is at least approx-

imately 25% greater than the straight-line distance conflict for that sport. Driving distance will be calculated via Google Maps using shortest distance (not quickest), accepting toll roads, and avoiding ferries as parameters.

There was a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Ms. Biddle, and the Board VOTED to create a policy regarding Event Conflict Distance Appeals (Affirmative: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Fineburg, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, Powers Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin, Abstention: Smyth)

Appeal Process for Event Distance Conflicts

Clubs have the option to appeal event date/site conflicts when the driving mileage is approximately 25% greater than the straight-line distance conflict for that sport. Driving distance is to be calculated via Google Maps using shortest distance (not quickest), accepting toll roads, and avoiding ferries as parameters. *Appeals with a driving distance of 25% or more above the straight-line distance conflict will be reviewed by Staff, who shall approve the appeal once the mileage is confirmed. Appeals with a driving distance of less than 25% above the straight-line distance conflict will be considered by the Board Appeals Committee, which shall approve or deny the appeal.*

Impact of Awarding Championship Points for Group 2-3-4 Placements

The opportunity to earn Championship points for placing 2-3-4 in the Group was implemented in January 2023. This change was meant to encourage all exhibitors, but it was believed that it would assist and retain low-entry breeds (LEBs) that have a challenge earning points due to a lack of competition.

In 2023, 88 LEBs earned points from Group 2-3-4 placements. The Bracco Italiano and Wire Fox Terrier had the most dogs benefiting from this change. In 2023, the absentee rate for LEBs decreased by 1.4%, resulting in approximately 3,000 additional entries. By placing Group 2-3-4, LEBs earned an additional 1,016 points and 251 majors.

The Board recessed at 5:22 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. All Directors and the Executive Secretary were present in the New York office.

Fines and Reprimands

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Davies the Board Voted to reduce the fine imposed on the German Shepherd Dog Club of Austin from \$600 to \$300 for canceling entries for three (3)

Conformation shows after the entry was closed as per the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 11, Section 6.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. It was reported out of this Session that:

The Board approved the *AKC Personal Conduct Policy* and created a new offense category and penalties to be added to the *AKC Discipline Guidelines* effective immediately.

IV. Misconduct Against an Individual (suspension of all AKC privileges)

c. Violation of AKC Personal Conduct Policy

Mitigated: 5 yr/\$1,000

Standard: 10 yr/\$2,000

Up to life/up to \$10,000

**Violations of this offense may result in AKC administratively removing the individual from AKC registrations as a co-owner.

AKC Personal Conduct Policy

It is a privilege to be part of the American Kennel Club. Everyone who participates in the sport must refrain from conduct detrimental to the integrity of and public confidence in the sport of dogs and the AKC. This includes everyone who participates in any way in AKC events from exhib-

itors, judges, superintendents, show secretaries, club members, stewards, vendors, handlers, or anyone that uses AKC services.

Conduct by anyone in the sport that is irresponsible, dangerous, violent, or illegal puts others at risk, damages the reputation of others in the sport, and undercuts public respect and support for the AKC. We must endeavor at all times to be people of high character, show respect for others inside and outside our sport, and conduct ourselves in ways that favorably reflect on ourselves, our dogs, and the AKC.

This zero-tolerance policy is issued pursuant to the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.*, as it relates to conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC.

Expectations and Standards of Conduct:

As participants in our sport, we must hold ourselves to a higher standard and conduct ourselves in a way that is responsible, promotes the values of the AKC, and is lawful.

Those convicted of a crime or subject to a disposition of a criminal proceeding (“Disposition” as defined in this Policy) are subject to discipline. Even if the conduct does not result in a criminal conviction, those found to have engaged in any of the following conduct will be subject to discipline. Prohibited Conduct includes but is not limited to the following*:

- Assault and/or battery, including sexual assault or other sex offenses;
- Violent or threatening behavior toward another individual;
- Stalking or similar forms of intimidation;
- Inappropriate comments, conduct and/or contact regarding but not limited to race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or are sexual in nature (“Harassment”);
- Inappropriate treatment of animals (would be subject to the *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment of Animals Policy*);
- Illegal possession of a gun or other weapon (such as explosives, toxic substances, and the like);
- Illegal possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or drugs;
- Crimes of dishonesty such as blackmail, extortion, fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, or racketeering (could be subject to the AKC’s Unauthorized Use of Club Funds Policy);
- Theft-related crimes such as burglary, robbery, or larceny;
- Crimes against law enforcement, such as obstruction, resisting arrest, or harming a police officer or other law enforcement officer;
- Conduct that poses a genuine danger to the safety and well-being of another person; and
- Conduct that undermines or puts at risk the integrity of the AKC, AKC clubs, club officials, AKC approved judges, AKC personnel, or anyone that participates in any way in AKC events.

Judges conduct would also be subject to the *Integrity of Judges and Judges Misconduct Policies*.

*Penalties for specific offenses as outlined in the *AKC Discipline Guidelines* shall be applicable.

When AKC becomes aware of a possible violation of this Policy and pursuant to the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.*, AKC may undertake an investigation, the timing and scope of which will be based upon the circumstances of the matter. Any such investigation may be conducted by AKC personnel, independent parties, or a combination of the two. In cases that are also being investigated by law enforcement officials, the AKC may continue its separate investigation, and will work to cooperate with law enforcement to avoid any conflict or interference with the law enforcement proceedings. A failure to cooperate with an investigation or to be truthful in responding to inquiries will be separate grounds for disciplinary action. An accused's refusal to speak to an AKC investigator under such circumstances will not preclude an investigation from proceeding or discipline from being imposed.

Upon receipt of information that a person has been charged or accused with misconduct pursuant to this policy, the AKC will notify the person that the privileges of the AKC may be withheld ("temporary referral") in accordance with the, *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.*, Article XII, Section 4. Further, AKC may consider the restrictions and terms placed on an individual pursuant to pretrial release

conditions by the Court ("Pretrial Release" as defined herein) in evaluating information that a person has been accused of Prohibited Conduct under this policy (e.g. no contact with minors or no possession of animals, etc.).

Accordingly, AKC will notify the person that they have been placed on temporary referral. Temporary referral affects all dogs registered with the AKC as owned or co-owned by that person. The temporary referral means that the person should not breed, sell, or transfer dogs with the expectation AKC paperwork will be provided. If AKC determines that no violation has occurred and no action will be taken to cause a suspension of privileges, the temporary referral will be removed, and all pending applications processed. Additionally, awards will not be recorded for any dogs owned or co-owned by the individual that participates in any AKC events.

If the Prohibited Conduct is substantiated, AKC will follow the disciplinary process as set forth in the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.* In matters involving the violations of this policy, AKC may remove the individual from AKC registrations as a co-owner. This is not removal of legal title of a dog, rather it is removal of the individual from AKC recorded registration. In addition, an accused, in certain circumstances, may be prohibited from being on the grounds of AKC approved events.

** Definition of "Disposition" – includes conviction, admission, finding of guilt, plea to a lesser included offense, plea of no contest, nolo con-

tendere, best interest plea or similar type plea, the acceptance of or into a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, disposition of supervision or similar arrangement.

** Definition of "Pretrial Release" – includes, but is not limited to, bond, conditional release, recognizance, etc.

This policy may be updated at any time and is effective immediately.

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider this matter at the meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed changes to the *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy* which provides consistency between this policy and the Personal Conduct Policy by allowing the AKC to administratively

remove an individual from AKC registrations as a co-owner for a violation of the Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy.

This is effective immediately.

Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment (September 1990 Board meeting; amended in December 1993, November 2004, and May 2011, amended May 2024)

The inappropriate treatment of dogs is recognized to be conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the American Kennel Club and to the best interest of the sport of purebred dogs, pursuant to the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club. "Inappropriate Treatment" means any offense involving a dog that alleges cruelty, abuse, neglect, or improper treatment of a dog as defined by AKC.

Anyone charged or accused of inappropriate treatment of a dog whose charges or accusations are subsequently disposed of in any of the following ways: conviction, admission, finding of inhumane treatment, plea to a lesser included offense, plea of no contest, nolo contendere, best interest plea or similar type plea; the acceptance of or into a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, disposition of supervision

or similar arrangement; or the releasing or transferring of legal ownership of one or more dogs to federal, state, or local authorities, humane organizations, or rescue groups after having their dogs seized by said federal, state or local authorities (“Disposition”) shall have their AKC privileges suspended for the term as set forth in the most current AKC Discipline Guidelines. Court or administrative records evidencing such Disposition shall be deemed conclusive proof of conduct prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs and to the best interests of the American Kennel Club.

Upon receipt of information that a person has been charged or accused with Inappropriate Treatment of a dog or that a person has had their dogs seized, the AKC will notify the person that they have been placed on temporary referral in accordance with the AKC’s Registration Referral and Cancellation policy, affecting all dogs owned or co-owned by that person. The temporary referral means that the person should not breed, sell, or transfer dogs with the expectation AKC paperwork will be provided. If AKC determines that no violation has occurred and no action will be taken to cause a suspension of privileges, the temporary referral will be removed, and all pending applications processed.

Upon proof that a violation of this policy has occurred, the person shall be notified, in writing, of the AKC’s intent to suspend their privileges. The person shall be notified and afforded the opportunity to submit proof that he or she has not violated the policy, or that the disposition of the charges or the conviction has been reversed, dismissed, or vacated. Additionally, if the Disposition is reversed, dismissed, or vacated, unless such action occurs pursuant to the Disposition, and there is no further prosecution of the charges and the American Kennel Club is presented with proof of same, the person’s privileges with the American Kennel Club shall be reinstated.

Additionally, the person shall be notified and afforded the opportunity to submit a written appeal to the Management Disciplinary Committee on the grounds that the conduct was not prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$500 fee, which shall be returned if the appeal is sustained. If the Management Disciplinary Committee denies the appeal, the accused may submit a written appeal to the Appeals Committee of the Board of Directors, whose decision is final.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Personal Conduct Policy and any potential conflicts are to be resolved in a manner consistent with the intent of the

policies as solely determined by the AKC Board of Directors.

Unauthorized Use of Club Funds Policy

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider this matter at the meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed changes to the *Unauthorized Use of Club Funds Policy* which will broaden the scope of the policy by bringing consistency between this and other policies and close the gaps within the policy by updating the disposition language. This is effective immediately.

Unauthorized Use of Club Funds (April 2009 Board meeting; amended in May 2024)

The following policy which provides that the unauthorized use of a licensed, member, or sanctioned AKC club's funds, or assets is hereby recognized to be conduct prejudicial to the best interests of The American Kennel Club, purebred dogs or the sport of purebred dogs.

Anyone charged or accused of unauthorized use of club funds or club assets or a

finding of financial liability whose charges or accusations are subsequently disposed of in any of the following ways: A conviction, or admission in a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, or a finding by a federal or state administrative agency of unauthorized use of club funds or club assets or a finding of financial liability, plea to a lesser offense, plea of no contest, nolo contendere, best interest plea or similar type plea; acceptance of or into a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, disposition of supervision or similar arrangement, or a signed admission of unauthorized use of club funds or club assets ("Disposition") shall have their AKC privileges suspended for the term as set forth in the most current AKC Discipline Guidelines. Court or administrative records evidencing such Disposition shall be deemed conclusive proof of conduct prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs and to the best interests of the American Kennel Club.

~~shall be deemed conclusive proof of conduct prejudicial to the sport of purebred dogs and to the best interests of The American Kennel Club and, accordingly, shall be grounds for suspension of all American Kennel Club privileges as the Board of Directors shall determine, upon proof being presented to The American Kennel Club by a member or officer of a licensed, member, or sanctioned AKC~~

~~Club, or any other person.~~ Any club or person(s) interested in purebred dogs could submit a complaint alleging that a violation of the proposed policy has occurred.

Staff foresees that a majority of complaints would be submitted by a club, but in accordance with **Article XII, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, it would not be required. Once the complaint is submitted, if staff determines that further inquiry into the matter is warranted, it would contact the club involved to obtain additional information.

As with any alleged violation, if the inquiry into the allegation determines that there is sufficient evidence to prefer charges, the accused would be notified of the AKC's intent to impose disciplinary action.

After being notified of the AKC's intent to impose discipline for a violation of the policy and the penalty that is intended to be imposed, the person shall be afforded the opportunity to appeal to the Management Disciplinary Committee on the grounds that the conduct was not prejudicial to The American Kennel Club, purebred dogs, and the sport of purebred dogs. The appeal must be accompanied by a ~~\$200~~\$250 fee, which shall be returned if the appeal is sustained. If the Management Disciplinary Committee denies the appeal, the accused

may submit a written appeal to the Appeals Committee of the Board of Directors, whose decision is final. Additionally, the person shall be notified and afforded the opportunity to request reversal of the suspension by submitting proof that he or she was not convicted for such conduct or that the conviction was reversed or vacated upon appeal. If such a conviction is reversed or vacated on appeal, and there is no further prosecution of the charges, and the American Kennel Club is presented with proof of same, the person's privileges with the American Kennel Club shall be reinstated.

If the complaint alleges that the violation was committed by an AKC approved judge, staff would follow the Board of Directors' policies that pertain to conducting inquiries into matters where the accused is an approved judge. Specifically, the Director or head of the department that is responsible for approving the judge would be notified of the complaint. If an inquiry into the matter was warranted, the President would allocate the necessary staff resources to conduct the inquiry.

Additionally, during the inquiry, when applicable, any new application for the judge accused of misconduct would be placed on hold, pending the results of the inquiry. Staff would also take into consid-

eration the fact that the accused is an AKC approved judge when setting the penalty for any alleged violation of the policy.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Compliance Status Report – First Quarter 2024

Article XII Complaints Received - 0
Event Committee Hearing Reports Received - 10
Management Disciplinary Committee Charges Preferred - 17
Code of Sportsmanship Complaints Received - 15
Other Inquiries Received - 5

Inspection Status Report – First Quarter 2024

Staff presented a summary of quarterly inspections.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation and Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports & Events, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Publishing of Handlers and Agents in Dog Show Catalogs

Staff presented a recommendation to adopt a policy requiring professional handlers

and agents listed in dog show catalogs to successfully complete the Stewards of Children® training from the non-profit organization Darkness to Light once every three years.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Implementation Plan - AKC Educational Requirements Policy

The Board reviewed a memorandum of the measures taken by Staff to implement the *AKC Educational Requirements Policy and Recommendations* adopted by the Board at its April 2024 meeting.

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support, and Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations participated in this portion of the meeting.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN MARCH AND APRIL

Salina Kennel Club, Saline County, KS (1972)
South Windsor Kennel Club, Inc., South Windsor, CT (1993)
Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK (1935)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN MARCH AND APRIL

Hound Association of Central Florida, greater Ocala, FL (including all communities north to Gainesville, south to Tampa, to east and west coasts), 31 total households, 19 local.

Mid-South Basset Hound Club, greater Columbia, TN area (including communities north to Bowling Green, KY, southwest to Olive Branch, MS, east to Route 231/Murfreesboro, south to Vina/Somerville, AL), 48 total households, 12 local.

Ocean State Agility Club, Providence, RI, 45 total households, 25 local.

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Mark Dunn, EVP Registration, Seth Fera-Schanes, Director of Strategic Planning, and Erin Myers, Project Analyst, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Dog Grooming Institute

Erin Myers presented an overview of AKC's Grooming programs. The American Kennel Club has positioned itself to become the preeminent governing body for grooming education in the United States.

AKC launched our flagship S.A.F.E. (Safety, Assurance, Fundamentals, Education) courses in 2018. The grooming

program has grown to include multiple achievement levels of technical skill certification and now administers the only nationwide grooming industry credential. Additionally, the American Kennel Club powers the National Dog Groomers Association of America (NDGAA), one of the biggest industry membership organizations for professional dog groomers in the world.

The entirety of this program exists under the AKC Dog Grooming Institute umbrella and continues to grow upon the foundation of S.A.F.E and the AKC mission to protect the health and well-being of all dogs.

The AKC Dog Grooming Institute expanded the program in mid-2022 to include a certification in coat types. This level of certification assesses a groomer's proficiency in curly, wire, jacket and drop coats. Candidates are evaluated on their technique and craftsmanship required for everyday grooming. Certification can be completed at live events or virtually on Canine College.

The grooming program continued its expansion in early 2023 with the acquisition of assets from the National Dog Groomers Association of America (NDGAA) including their National Certified Master Groomer (NCMG) certification and mem-

bership list. The NCMG test assesses the participant's ability to groom a specific breed to standard. Completing the AKC Groomer Certification Pathway in its entirety is thoughtfully rigorous and results in the "AKC Master Groomer" title; 17 candidates have completed this achievement to date.

We expanded the program this year by acquiring the Professional Grooming Credential (PGC) from the World Pet Association (WPA). The WPA applied great industry leadership and diligence in creating the PGC and will continue to collaborate with AKC on professional grooming education and advocacy. The PGC exam determines a candidate's minimum competency to conduct business as a dog groomer. This credential offers the industry the opportunity to self-regulate, organize, and advocate for more opportunities like becoming a recognized trade. The credential has already been adopted into 4 community college curriculums across the country and an industry group we are working with anticipates over 40 colleges by spring of 2025.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Mark Dunn, EVP of Registration, Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing, and Dr. Claire Wiley, Executive Director of the AKC DNA Program, participated in this

portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Club/Fancy Communications for DNA Enhancements

Based on a Board request, Staff presented a memo on the communications to clubs and the fancy regarding the new DNA enhancements, AKC DNA + Health. The Board was provided with an overview of product updates and the marketing campaign, as well as early sales results.

The AKC DNA + Health test combines the original AKC DNA profile with genetic health and traits testing. This new test aims to satisfy all breeders' needs with just one kit.

- Now 2 kits are available for purchase on the AKC Shop or through Breeder Relations.
 - AKC DNA Kit: \$50
 - AKC DNA + Health Kit: \$135.99

Every dog submitted receives results for all health and trait markers, regardless of breed. However, results are filtered based on breed with tests most relevant for a breed at the top of the report.

For a list of included tests, visit <https://www.akc.org/breeder-programs/dna/dna-resource-center/akc-dna-health/akc-dna-health-kit-included-tests/>.

The test helps to meet Breeder of Merit/

Bred with H.E.A.R.T. certification requirements for DNA tests for most breeds.

- Every purchase helps to fund the work of AKC's non-profit affiliates such as the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF)
- Comes with lifetime access to canine genetic counselors (staffed by veterinary professionals) to help make smart breeding decisions
- Verifiable results – using world class technology to internally validate results to match each specific dog (if AKC DNA for sire and dam are on file)
- Results delivered by our trusted service provider (Neogen) with the highest industry standards.
 - Emailed within 4-5 weeks from receipt at the lab.
 - Customers receive 2 PDF reports.
- Kits for sale at the AKC Booth for \$40 with instructions that customers can upgrade for \$85.99.
- Breeder Development is also selling both AKC DNA Kits and AKC DNA + Health Kits in the field with portable card readers.
- Parent Clubs can request kits to sell at National Specialties or events for \$40, and customers can upgrade for \$85.99.

In summary, AKC DNA + Health is designed as a tool to help breed healthier dogs and maintain the integrity of the reg-

istry. The AKC is pleased to be offering this new service to breeders, and we strive to add more tests that are important to breeders as time goes on.

CONSENT

There was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Ms. Biddle, and it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Fast CAT® – Event Committee of an AKC Hosted Major Event

The Board VOTED to add language clarifying that an event committee for an AKC-hosted major event has the authority to make decisions on matters not already addressed in the regulations and use its discretion to interpret existing regulations.

Chapter 4. Standard Procedures for Fast CAT

SECTION 10. MAJOR EVENT. Any major event(s) hosted by the AKC will have announcements, qualifications, event info, result coverage, etc. published online, which can be found by visiting the Fast CAT homepage: <https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/>.

The event committee of an AKC hosted major event shall have the authority to decide upon any matter arising which is not already

specifically addressed in these Regulations. This includes matters related to the event that may occur before, during, or after the event. Should a situation arise where the application of a Regulation is open for interpretation, the event committee shall decide how it will be handled. The event committee for an AKC-hosted major event is also subject to the Regulations governing the role of the event committee as found in *Chapter 2, Section 3. Event Committee.*

Conformation Judging Approval Process

The Board approved proposed modifications to the Conformation Judging Approval Process to require judges approved for two or more complete groups to submit a Request to Advance preceding any application for additional breeds if a request had not been approved in the previous 12-month period.

The effective date is June 1, 2024.

Show Veterinarians - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 10, Sections 2 and 5

The Board VOTED to approve recommendations by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to modify **Chapter 10, Section 2 and Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which removes the club's obligation for expenses incurred for dogs it refers for veterinary examination and assigns any expenses that may result to

the dog's owner or agent.

The proposal will be read at the June 2024 Delegate Meeting and voted on as a single vote at the September 2024 Delegate Meeting.

The effective date, if approved by the Delegate Body, will be September 18, 2024.

Proposed
(Line In/Line Out)

CHAPTER 10

SECTION 2. The Show Veterinarian must be available during show hours to examine any dog that becomes ill or injured at the dog show during show hours or referred by the Event Committee for examination. It will be the responsibility of the owner or owner's agent to transport the dog to the veterinarian and for any cost associated with the dog's examination, illness, or injury. "On call" veterinarians are not required to be present at the event.

CHAPTER 10

SECTION 5. The duties of the veterinarians Show Veterinarian shall be to:

- Render treatment to dogs in the cases of sickness or injury occurring at the event. The associated expense shall be the responsibility of the owner or owner's agent.
- Examine dogs at the request of the

Event Committee and require removal from competition and the show premises of any dog deemed to endanger the health of said dog or the health of other dogs at the event. If any expenses are incurred in the examination of the dog, it shall be the responsibility of the Event giving club owner or owner's agent of the dog.

(c) Provide written reports of such decisions to the Event Committee and superintendent.

(d) Provide written advisory opinions to an Event Committee when requested.

Show Veterinarians are not to be called to treat dogs with non-emergency conditions or with no apparent contagious symptoms. Show Veterinarians may request payment from the dog's owner or agent for services rendered.

Beagle Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board approved the proposed revision to the Beagle Standard with an effective date of July 30, 2024.

Color: Any allowed hound color. Merle and brindle color patterns are not acceptable and shall be disqualified.

Delegates Approved

Michelle Brislin

To represent Chihuahua Club of America
Published March 2024, April 2024

Brenda Dorman

To represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)
Published April 2024, May 2024

Sue Goldberg

To represent Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club
Published March 2024, April 2024

Christine M. Gonsalves

To represent Wampanoag Kennel Club
Published March 2024, April 2024

Marlene Groves

To represent Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado
Published March 2024, April 2024

Joao Machado

To represent Oakland Dog Training Club
Published March 2024, April 2024

Sandra McCue

To represent Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore
Published March 2024, April 2024

D. Scott Pfeil

To represent International Kennel Club of Chicago
Published March 2024, April 2024



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Sue Ratz

To represent Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club

Published March 2024, April 2024

Marty Smith

To represent Trenton Kennel Club

Published March 2024, April 2024

Robin Stansell

To represent French Bull Dog Club of America

Published April 2024, May 2024

Cledith Wakefield

To represent Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri

Published March 2024, April 2024

Dorinne Waterman

To represent San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club

Published March 2024, April 2024

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this Session.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 12:23 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



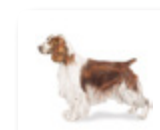
Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



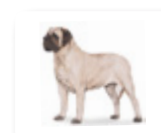
Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



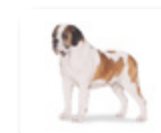
Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



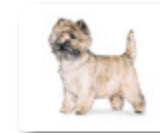
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>



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